

# POPULAR Computing WEEKLY

35p

12-18 May 1983 Vol 2 No 19

## This Week

### Spectrum software

Graham Taylor takes a critical look at some of the recent arcade type games which have been released for the Spectrum. See page 14.

### BBC regression

Calvin Woodings explains some of the finer points of linear regression and correlation on page 20.

### Draw command

Ian Logan explains why the Spectrum's Draw command can give rise to patterns rather than curved lines. See page 17.

### Ace graphics

Simon Cross runs through an animated graphics program for the 3K Jupiter Ace on page 19.

★ **STAR**

Alien Lander  
on BBC. See  
page 10.

**GAME** ★

## News Desk

### Virgin plans games release

VIRGIN Games is planning to release eight programs in time for the Earl's Court Computer Fair, June 16-19.

Four of the programs are for use with the Sinclair ZX Spectrum. Nick Alexander, head of Virgin Games, said the programs included an arcade style game, a graphic adventure and a golf simulation.

Three of the remaining four programs are for the BBC micro. They consist of an original arcade type game, a Mars lander simulation and a graphic adventure.

The final program is an arcade game for the Vic20.

All eight programs will be priced at £7.95 and will be launched officially on June 14. The games will be available initially through retail chains — Nick Alexander hopes to distribute the games through record shops later.

Virgin plans to release further software in September and will cover an expanded range of machines, including

Continued on page 5

## Memotech debut at computer fair

MEMOTECH is to launch a new, low-cost, micro at the London Computer Fair next month. It will feature a professional-style keyboard, with 16 user-definable functions, and the ability to Run CP/M software.

So far the Oxfordshire-based company has specialised in enhancing Sinclair machines. Demand for its ZX81 keyboard convinced Memotech that a quality keyboard was an "essential", according to Robert Branton

who is developing software in-house for the new machine.

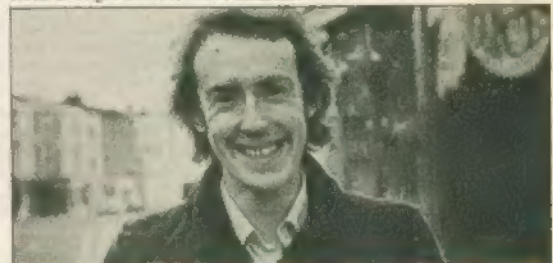
He added that the need to have software readily available has prompted Memotech to launch disc drive systems at the same time as the machine.

Both 5¼ and 8 inch versions will be available, allowing buyers to use CP/M software. As Branton said: "If somebody buys this system, software is guaranteed."

Details of pricing are not yet available, but the machine will

Continued on page 5

Head of Virgin Games, Nick Alexander



## Classified

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YATZEE!! The popular dice game for any Spectrum. Up to six players, £3.50 from: M. Dolphin, 8 The Handbridge, Highgate Park, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire.

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★★ ADVENTURE COMPETITION — WIN A 64 ★★



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Salamander Software offers a wide range of games for the Dragon 32, BBC Model B, Oric 1 and Tandy 32K microcomputers. Whatever your age, whatever your taste, Salamander Software has the program for you! See us at the Midland Computer Fair, Birmingham, April 28-30.

"Why can't all software come up to this standard?" - Computer and Video Games.

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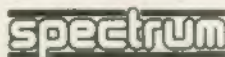
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# Salamander Software



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### Accuracy

*Popular Computing Weekly* cannot accept any  
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publish, although we will always try our best to  
make sure programs work.

## This Week

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## Editorial

Top 10 charts are becoming in-  
creasingly popular among software  
users. Just as pop fans follow the Top  
10 record charts religiously each  
week, so micro enthusiasts are turning  
to the software charts.

However, as the number of charts  
proliferates, so does the concern over  
the way in which they are compiled.  
Software manufacturers are worried  
that the charts often bear little rela-  
tionship to the actual number of  
games being sold.

What is needed is an independent  
chart which accurately reflects the  
state of the market. But, such a chart  
could not be compiled by any one  
magazine, software company or retail  
chain.

Ideally, the Computer Trade Asso-  
ciation should approach a body such  
as the British Market Research  
Bureau and ask it to compile a Top 10  
chart.

This chart could then be sup-  
plied to all software companies and  
magazines — it would provide a stan-  
dard Top 10 for the industry.

It is in the interests of both the  
software manufacturer and the micro  
user to know which program really is  
the number one selling game in Brit-  
tain.

At the moment you can do little  
better than take an educated guess.

## Next Thursday

Shoot down all the aliens that fly in  
formation before they get you and then  
move to the star base where the mother  
ship is waiting! *Star Swarm* — a new  
game for the 16K Spectrum by Richard  
Sharod.

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PCWk



**Micro debut**

Continued from page 1

fall in the £125-£300 bracket — more than the Spectrum, less than the BBC A. Production is scheduled to start this month so that the micro will be available after the fair.

The quality of the keyboard and the CP/M compatibility point the micro towards the business market, but Memotech is equally keen to capture games users. With this in mind, the machine's Basic has been extended to include Logo commands, adding to the range of shapes that can be defined and giving easier movements. The games video section is "very powerful" according to Branton, with "a good clean picture and excellent facilities for animation".

The Basic has also been extended so that up to eight virtual screens can be defined, each with independent editing.

The machine has additional built-in features allowing users to learn more about programming. A front panel display lets users write assembly level programs and then see what is happening inside the computer.

Branton explained that this gives users "complete control of the machine at a high level while everything is displayed".

The micro has a full qwerty keyboard, plus a numeric keypad and eight function keys. These work in shift, giving users 16 functions which can be programmed in a similar way to the BBC micros.

Branton said the keyboard has a professional feel, superior to the Dragon's, and it is costing Memotech "a fortune". There is 32K of Ram, 16K of video Ram and 16K of Rom. Memory can be expanded up to 512K in 32K blocks. There are 16 colours and 256 by 192 high resolution graphics.

Other features of the micro are two joystick ports and a Centronics interface. An add-on board provides an RS232 interface.

**Virgin games**

Continued from page 1

the Commodore 64 and possibly the Texas Instruments micros.

● Laurence Kaye has joined Virgin Games as sales manager — he was previously part of the Virgin record sales force.

**Casio's pocket - size built-in printer**

CASIO is now selling a pocket computer with a built-in printer at just under £100.

The new machine, the FX802P, costs £99.95 and is about the same size as a man's wallet. It has a standard cassette interface, but no facilities for linking separate printers or televisions. Basic is the programming language and the capacity is 1,568 key-strokes.

Twenty characters a line are displayed on the printer and 12 on the liquid crystal display, although this scrolls to a maximum of 60 characters. The keyboard is laid out in the conventional qwerty style, but has been improved over previous models in the same family: rows have been staggered and the space bar extended.

**Salamander converts Dragon!**

SALAMANDER Software has now converted its range of Dragon 32 software to run on the 32K Tandy Color Computer with Extended Basic.

The conversions have been carried out for sale in America where the Tandy Color Com-

puter has a considerable following, but the titles are now also available in the UK.

The Tandy titles are priced the same as the Dragon versions. Enquiries to Salamander Software, 27 Ditchling Rise, Brighton.

**Now it's computer graphics and pop music!**

POP music accompanied by computer graphics is the latest idea from Manchester singer-songwriter Chris Sievey, the man who brought you *I'm in love with the girl on the Manchester Virgin Megastore check-out desk*.

The "B" side of his new single *Camouflage* contains a program for the 16K ZX81. The idea is that you load this and then run it while playing the "A" side of the record — giving you lyrics and computer graphics on the tv screen in synchronisation with the music.

Chris admits that the graphics are "not exactly Tron". But then, as he says, "at a quid what do you expect?" And, anyway, there's more on the "B" side — a 16K



arcade style game called *Flying Train* and a shortened 1K version for users without Ram expansion.

The single, called *Camouflage*, is released by Random Records and will be available from record shops from May 20 (order number RND\*1).

Chris is now busy writing more songs and programs to run on the ZX81 and Spectrum, "with a possibility of Dragon, BBC, Oric, etc, recordings to follow".

**American launch**

VIRGIN Books are to launch their range of computer books in America. The move follows an agreement with American publishers Dell.

To check the listings before printing, Virgin Books are looking for people experienced on all the popular micros, including BBC and Oric.

If you're prepared to spend a few hours typing in programs, either write to Norman Dinesen at 61-63 Portobello Road, London W11, or ring him on 01-221 7535.

**Hitch-hikers dispute is over**

THE dispute over the Hitch-hikers Guide to the Galaxy adventure game has been settled.

Supersoft, the Middlesex-based software company, and Hitch-hikers author, Douglas Adams reached an agreement through their solicitors moments before the case came to court.

An injunction was sought by Douglas Adams on the grounds that Supersoft had no right to use the names and places from the book in the game.

In return for Supersoft dropping the game, Douglas Adams has agreed not to pursue any claims over royalties on those cassettes already issued.

The game was originally released by Supersoft in the belief that a letter from Pan had given them the necessary rights (*PCW*, 21-27 April). Pan have paid the legal costs of both sides.

**Sound module for Dragon**

A THREE channel sound module has been developed for the Dragon.

The JCB Microsystems Sound Extension Module uses a sound chip, the AY-3-8910, to extend the on-board sound facilities of the Dragon.

The manufacturers claim the module is easier to use than similar modules for other machines. A 4K Eprom within the module sets up the registers, and a new basic command "MUSIC" is provided for use within programs.

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# LETTERS

## Misquoted!

We refer to an article written by David Kelly in your magazine, 24-30 March 1983, entitled *The House of the Rising Psion*.

In this article the magazine has stated that "Psion has recently concluded a licensing agreement with Spears to produce a home computer version of *Scrabble*". We must inform you that there has been either a misunderstanding or a misquote with regard to this statement.

J W Spear & Sons PLC has in fact concluded an exclusive licensing agreement with Little Genius Ltd to produce home computer versions of the game *Scrabble*. Little Genius Ltd, in turn, has concluded an agreement with Psion Ltd, on an exclusive basis, to produce and market *Computer Scrabble* for the Sinclair ZX Spectrum personal computer.

J G Baldachin  
Little Genius  
22 Inverness Street  
London NW1 7HJ

## A little mishap

I am writing to you, not to complain, but to inform you of a little mishap I had this evening.

Dawlish College is a boarding school for boys, and we have a Sinclair Spectrum. I find putting in long programs a challenge, but I have such little time that I have to do it in dribs and drabs.

I started to put in the very interesting *Defender* program (PCW 14-20 April) which took me three days. Now when I'd finished it, I was really pleased with myself. So I ran the program and had a game. It was very good and interesting, especially the fast-moving graphics which you do not get in many games.

So I had a go, lost all my ships, then put my name in the hall of fame. Then the computer printed up "Would you like another go Y/N?". I said 'no', so I could *Save* it on the tape. To my surprise it then said "This program will now self-destruct".

I thought it would just flash and flicker, different colours, which it did not — it *Newed* itself! I looked through the

whole of the program, and could not see a *New*, so I expect it was in one of the *Pokes* which I know changes the working of the machine.

I thought I would write this letter, just in case something like this happens to another one of your readers.

N Collins  
Dawlish College  
Mamhead Park  
Kenton  
Nr Exeter  
S Devon

Our apologies to N Collins and to anyone else who suffered the same fate. We should have pointed out the effect of pressing *N* in the accompanying notes. However, this does highlight a very important point — always *Save* a game on tape immediately after you have entered it. That way, if anything does go wrong, you still have a back-up copy.

## Going to the dogs?

In issue No 16 P G Clark objected to a CND ad because it is "political".

Quite right, too! If we right-thinking people can't open a magazine without being exposed to (political) views different from our own, this country is really going to the dogs.

Still, at least P G Clark had his views published free — the CND had to pay, so you see PG, *Popular Computing Weekly* is not without a sense of proportion.

On the other hand, if the editor shows further signs of commie sympathies, how about me and you and a few of the boys going round and sorting him out — eh! They'll be looking for the vote next...

T Foxe  
25 Primula Drive  
Norwich

## Nothing like the book

I have long been a Tolkien fan. Recently I have also become a Spectrum fan. Hoping to get the best of both worlds, I bought a copy of *The Hobbit* (an expensive item!).

I was influenced by your reviews, among others, which suggested that the program bore a close resemblance to the book. However, it seems that this is not so. Neither

Gandalf nor Thorin seem to display any of the characteristics which they possess in the book. As for sticking to the story, where are the dwarfs?

Also, how about the fascinating conversations you are supposed to be able to hold with the characters? Most of them seem to say no more than "hurry up" or "no"! I am beginning to wonder now whether I have wasted £15, and would have got better value from three normal-priced cassettes.

Ruth Morris  
219 Station Road  
Sutton Coldfield  
West Midlands B73 5LE

I am sorry to hear that you are disappointed with *The Hobbit*. I agree that it does have certain faults, but it is still the best adventure game for the Spectrum that I have seen. Judging from the reaction to our *Hobbit* competition, most other people rate it highly as well.

## Minority machine

I have been reading your publication for some months now because I like its presentation of news and general format.

However, I have bought a Sharp MZ80A, mainly to complement my youngest son's education since his school uses Sharp MZ80Ks and the elder lad's school uses MZ80Bs (I also own a MZ80B for business purposes). I have seen no reference whatsoever in your pages to these excellent little micros and wonder whether this is a matter of editorial policy? If so, it is plainly not the magazine for my needs.

It is perhaps pertinent to add that my lad's school has had six Sharp MZ80Ks for some 18 months taking a very considerable pounding. The staff tell me that they've had no breakdowns to date: more than could be said for some other machines, I suggest.

R H Hill  
8 Parkland Road  
Woodford Green  
Essex IG8 9AP

There are now so many different micros on the market that it is impossible to cover all of them. However, we do try and devote some space to the minority machines, as well as

the more popular Spectrums, Vics, et al.

## Political offence?

I am writing in response to the letter from P G Clark (Vol 2 No 16) who appears to be confusing classified advertisements with editorial. He also appears to be unable to differentiate between propaganda and advertisements to join particular groups, be they user groups, programmers for real ale or whatever.

Advertisements for "the best computer money can buy" and your editorial "16-year-old whizz-kid programmers" must also be propaganda by this reckoning.

Even though there is absolutely no mention of politics, P G Clark says that the offending advertisement is political (is living in peace left or right?). Or is it that only politicians (the 'experts') understand the subtler points of mass destruction and that a desire for peace is too simplistic a view to be left to mere programmers?

P Tomlinson  
88 Pickhurst Rise  
West Wickham  
Kent

## A perfect square?

I like reading *Popular Computing Weekly*, especially Boris Allan when he writes about maths techniques. I am not games inclined, so my first priority is the puzzle which I try to solve with the aid of my trusty ZX Spectrum.

Could you please help me with a problem? Some puzzles resolve to checking to see if a number is a perfect square, but if I use the algorithm:

If  $\text{Int } \text{Sqr}(N) = \text{Sqr}(N)$  etc

it does not work on all perfect squares; eg, 25 fails. Can you supply me with a method that is trustworthy?

Incidentally, I get the same problem on my TRS80.

H Hudson  
4 Leyton Crescent  
Ilford  
Bradford  
West Yorks BD10 8RB

Unfortunately, I do not have any easy answers on tap. Perhaps some of our other readers will send in some suggestions.



# Critical review?



66 The sound commands on the Oric 1 are, for a computer of this price, very sophisticated. Three music channels, and one noise channel, mean that you can program some fairly complex sounds. 77

POPULAR COMPUTING WEEKLY

66 Oric is everything you hoped it would be. Alive with colour, and zapping with built-in sound effects, the Oric looks like a match for any machine now selling for less than £200. 77

YOUR COMPUTER

66 The 16k Oric – fighting the 16k Spectrum – is £25 cheaper. It feels a good deal more 'professional' than the home-appeal Sinclair. Oric's sound is extremely versatile, and well up to the standard of the £300 or £400 BBC microcomputer made by Acorn. 77

WHICH MICRO?

66 Oric is over twice as fast as the Spectrum. Surprisingly perhaps the Oric, which initially seemed only faster when performing the simplest of calculations, has come back to beat the Spectrum by a small amount. As the problems get more complex the Oric comes into its own. One final point – in entering the benchmark tests – the Oric was certainly the easiest to handle. 77

WHICH MICRO?

66 Oric will soon be selling a Modem so that Prestel will become available. Owners will be able to accept teletextware – programs loaded straight down the phone line – eventually electronic mail could come into the home by the same route, and with the addition of a tape recorder the Oric with its Modem could become a telephone answerer and message taker. 77

YOUR COMPUTER

66 This slope coupled with the design of the keys makes the Oric an easy machine to touch-type on. All keys have auto-repeat and there are four keys dedicated specifically to cursor control. It is certainly easier to type on than any of Sinclair's offerings. 77

YOUR COMPUTER

66 One good feature of the Oric is an on-screen reminder in the top right hand corner to show that you've engaged all-caps mode. So much better than the BB's variety of lights in the corner of the keyboard. The Oric is sound, simple to get along with and offers great expansion potential. 77

WHICH MICRO?

66 Instead of the Spectrum's 28 look-up single-character error reports, the Oric has 18 self-explanatory messages. If you actually want to do computing, rather than just exploring the world of off-the-shelf games programme entertainment the Oric will be a better buy. 77

WHICH MICRO?

66 When compared to the stogginess of the Spectrum's keyboard this is certainly an improvement. I can't see any Oric falling through bad assembly. If only the £2400 IBM were so easy to use. 77

WHICH MICRO?

66 A good speaker and built-in noises get the Oric's sound off to a good start. Typing Zap, Ping, Shoot or Explode produces convincing arcade game noises which can easily be incorporated into any program. 77

YOUR COMPUTER

66 The modem is certainly unusual in a machine of this price. Together with the other peripherals, when finally available, it should make for an attractive package for a small business... surely a match for machines costing much more. 77

POPULAR COMPUTING WEEKLY

## ORIC-1

The Real Computer System

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# Alien Lander

A new game for the BBC by Oke Uwchue

The object of the game for the BBC micro, is to land your craft on the landing pad on an alien planet, but the game is not as easy as it seems. Firstly, your ship accelerates downwards due to gravity and you have to keep on *Thrusting* to buoy it up (however, the craft also accelerates upwards due to *Thrusting*). Secondly, every so often, a missile thunders past the screen, cruising at a level close to your landing pad, and it must be avoided. Thirdly, if your craft touches any part of the planet terrain, you will immediately lose a life.

Movement sideways is by using the arrow keys (← and →) and you can *Thrust* by pressing the  $\square$  button. Your score, hi-score, and general status are continuously displayed on the screen. The game contains a full set of instructions.

I have made use of some special features of the BBC machine.

i) The envelope command at line 390. The sound statement accompanying this is

at line 1380.

ii) I used a different kind of *Inkey* statement (lines 690-710) because it allows a rapid keyboard scan.

iii) I have also used the key command: *FXIS*, 1 in order to flush the keyboard buffer of surplus characters which appear at the end of the game. (This always

happens when using the special *Inkey* command, as I have.)

iv) Nearly all the variables I used were % variables, ie 'integer variables' — this helps speed up the Basic a little.

## Program listing

Lines	
30-100	Introduction display
120-300	Instructions
390-410	Initialising
420-440	Character definition
450-650	Constructing the scenario
690-840	Main loop
900-980	Thrusting procedure
1010-1070	Ending the game when your ship has gone too high
1100-1160	Procedure to forfeit a life
1130	Checks if you have any lives left
1190-1250	End of game when you have used up all your lives
1290-1330	Scoring procedure, also checks if velocity is less than 7 m/sec
1460-1520	Procedure to blow up the craft when it is hit by a missile
1530	Checks to see if you have any lives left
1580	Checks if missile has hit your craft
1600-1660	Ends the game when you run out of fuel





```

10 REM****1983(c)***Q,UNECHUE*****
20 REM
30 MODE2:C.1:C.129:CLS
40 FORM%:=1TO98:AX=RN(100)-100
50 BX=RN(100):HX=RN(80)+15
60 MOVEAX,230:MOVEAX+BX,230
70 PLOT85,AX+30,230+HX:NEXT C.3
80 C.128:PRINTTAB(3,9)," ALIEN "
90 PRINTTAB(7,10)," LANDER "
100 FORC=1TO2000:NEXT
110 CLG:MODE0
120 PRINT:PRINT
130 PRINT"          YOUR TASK IS QUITE A
SIMPLE ONE:"
140 PRINT"STEER YOUR CRAFT TO land (NOT CRASH!)
ONTO THE GLOWING LANDING PAD"
150 P."ON THE PLANET SURFACE WITH A DESCENT
VELOCITY OF LESS THAN 7m/sec."
160 P."USE THE CORRESPONDING 'ARROW' KEYS TO
MANOEUVRE YOUR CRAFT(along x-axis)"
170 P."(only).BE SURE TO TAKE HEED OF THE
FOLLOWING:-"
180 P." 1) YOUR CRAFT WILL ACCELERATE DOWN
WARDS DUE TO THE PLANET'S"
190 P." GRAVITATIONAL PULL."
200 P." 2) TO COUNTERACT THIS, YOU MUST USE THE
thrust BUTTON('Q') IN ORDER"
210 P." TO PROPEL YOUR CRAFT UPWARDS, BUT BE
CAREFUL: YOUR CRAFT ALSO"
220 P." ACCELERATES UNDER THRUSTING AND YOU
MAY FIND YOURSELF PROPELLED"
230 P." OUT INTO ORBIT!"
240 P."P."YOU ONLY USE UP 2 FUEL POINTS FOR ANY
MOVEMENT ALONG X-AXIS"
250 P."BUT YOU BURN UP 5 FUEL POINTS AT A TIME
FOR THRUSTING."
260 P." BEWARE THE PLANET'S DEFENCES:
'surface missiles' THAT PERIODICALLY"
270 P."SKIM THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET IN SEARCH
OF ANY ALIEN LANDING"
280 P."CRAFT, IF YOU SHOULD COLLIDE WITH ONE OF
THESE, YOUR CRAFT WILL BE"
290 P."IMMEDIATELY DESTROYED AND YOU WILL
CONSEQUENTLY LOSE ONE OF YOUR"
300 P."THREE LIVES, YOU WILL ALSO LOSE A LIFE IF
YOUR CRAFT CRASHES INTO"
310 P."THE MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN."
320 P."HOWEVER, YOU WILL BE WARNED OF THE
MISSILE'S APPROACH BY THE "
330 P."PECULIAR BURST OF ULTRASOUND IT EMITS.

```

```

THIS SOUND WILL BE PICKED"
340 P."UP BY YOUR SCANNERS AND TRANSMUTED INTO
AN AUDIBLE FREQUENCY."
350 P." YOUR SHIP WILL BE REFUELLED AFTER
EVERY 4 SUCCESSFUL LANDINGS."
360 P."          YOU SCORE 10 POINTS PER
LANDING."
370 P."P." (press any key to begin)...
380 G% GETS
390 HX=0:SENVELOPE 1,1,100,0,-0.1,1,150,176,-1,
0,-5,100,100:WX=0
400 MODE1:YX,500:YX=870:GX=0:V005
410 11:ZX=17:FUELX=500:SCX=0:7=0:KX=0
420 V0107,200,170,170,0,0,0,16,0,0,0
430 V0107,170,0,0,0,0,7,1,0,0,21,214
440 V0107,275,0,15,15,240,176,124,226,7
450 A% (H%*,30+CH%*30:GCOL0,1):EX=2
460 FORHX=1TO50:HX=RN(100)-100
470 BX AND 100:HX=RN(50)+15
480 MOVEAX,10:MOVEAX+BX,230
490 PLOT85,AX+30,230+HX:NEXT
500 MOVEA,230:MOVE1000,170
510 PLOT85,180:PLOT85,1000,190
520 GCOL0,1:FORV=1TO20:SI=RN(100)
530 SI=RN(65)+90:PLOT85,SI,SI:NEXTV
540 P=RN(100)+600:GCOL0,0:MOVE P,220
550 MOVE P+75,220:PLOT85,P,295
560 PLOT85,P+75,295:GCOL0,1
570 PRINTTAB(1,27),"S T A T U S"
580 GCOL0,3:ZX=0
590 PRINTTAB(14,29),"SCORE:"+STR(SCX)
600 PRINTTAB(15,29),"VELOCITY:"
610 P,TAB(1,29):FUEL "+STR(FUELX)
620 GCOL0,1
630 P,TAB(5,30):"LIVES:"
640 GCOL0,1:P,TAB(11,30):A%+BX
650 GCOL0,1:P,TAB(16,30):"HI-score:",STR(HIX)
660 REM:11111111111111111111111111111111
670 REM:11111111111111111111111111111111
680 REM:11111111111111111111111111111111
690 IF INKEY(-171)=-1 GOTO900
700 IF INKEY(-122)=-1 THENX=X+15:FUELX=FUELX
-2:GOTO720
710 IF INKEY(-26)=-1 THENX=X-15:FUELX=FUELX-2
720 T=T+1
730 YX=X-X-T:MOVEXX,YX
740 GCOL0,0:PRINT A%
750 V0107,P,TAB(34,29):STR(T+1,1)
760 IF POINT(XX,YX-30)=1 THEN110
770 IF POINT(XX+50,YX-30)=1 THEN110

```



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# Absolute power . . .

**Graham Taylor battles with his conscience in a bid to become *The Great Dictator* — and loses!**

Despite the fact that Z80 programmers are a dime a dozen these days (well, about 20 percent royalties ■ dozen actually) software houses often still rely on versions of arcade favourites to win sales.

Those wishing to buy a copy of the most popular arcade game (ie, *Space Invaders*) have ■ choice of about five different versions with only minor differences between them. The reason for this is not hard to find — it is far more difficult to think up original games ideas than it is to find programmers who can turn existing ideas into code. The upshot of all this is that companies are now turning to the second division arcade leaders like *Frogger* and *Centipede*.

In the past months there have been at least three versions of *Centipede* issued. Your choice will depend very much on what you value most — speed, graphics or authenticity.

The first game, from DK Tronics, loaded ■ pleasing title page complete with centipede, but was lacking in some of the more exotic garden creatures featured in the original. Although disappointing in this respect, I nevertheless enjoyed the game. Fast keyboard response and sound effects made it in the "Oh no, it's three o'clock in the morning and I have to get up tomorrow" class.

In contrast, CDS Systems' *Caterpillar* features a poisonous snail that wanders across the screen from time to time and a very realistic spider that gleefully bounces towards you. Unfortunately, the game is

painfully slow, particularly the missiles (insecticide?) which drift leisurely up the screen.

Silversoft's *Cyber Rats* should be included with the above, since the packs of rats behave very much like the centipede, depositing what look like tufts of grass instead of mushrooms. Like DK Tronics, I don't think the graphics are all they could be, indeed the rats look more like frogs to me.

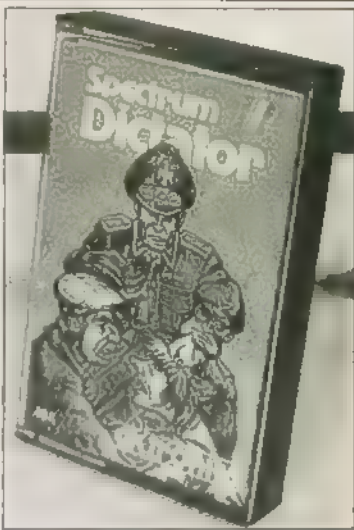
However, the game is very fast and you can't escape from the rats simply by staying out of their way, as you can with *Centipede*. Rather, the rats which reach the bottom of the screen remain there, necessitating some deft finger work in order to survive to the next wave.

New Generation was highly regarded for its ZX81 programs. Now, it has two programs available for the Spectrum.

## More fun watching the computer play itself!

The first, issued almost as soon as the machine was available is *Escape*. In a sort of *Theseus and the Minotaur* scenario, you are trapped ■ a maze pursued by various kinds of prehistoric monster. Most of these are somewhat slower than you, but at the hardest level a vicious pterodactyl swoops over the maze after you.

The only aim is to escape and to do this you need to find an axe which is hidden somewhere within the maze. But, if you do



find the axe you will run at half speed, making a quick death all the more likely.

The highest recommendation I can give this game is that I bought it last November and have never stopped playing it. Indeed, I have only ever escaped from the monsters once at level five.

The follow up — *Tunnel* — ■ less easily recommended. This game features the best animated graphics I have seen on the Spectrum (and that includes *Horace*) with highly detailed frogs and rats that run and jump towards you. If you just want ■ impress your Atari-owning friends, this is the one to do it. However, as a game it does not work.

To pass from one stage to the next, you must kill vast numbers of each animal, armed only with a strangely pathetic laser. This takes ages and soon gets tedious — you will have more fun watching the computer play itself in the demo version. Obviously, a vast amount of work has gone into this program and it seems a pity it has been rather thrown away at the last minute.

Talking of frogs, CDS Systems has issued a version of *Frogger* which features all the tunes of the original. It is a good game, simply because it ■ a fast machine code version of an excellent original concept. However, the graphics, particularly for the river and frogs, are not as good as they might have been. And the tune at the beginning gets irritating after you have heard it a few times. In short, enjoyable but not particularly inspiring.

*Derby Day* by Computer Rentals was something of ■ dark horse (sorry). The idea of a horse racing game written in Basic was not inspiring, but when I actually ran it, I was pleasantly surprised. There are a number of options, including the chance to name your own horses and odds. Bets are placed with honest Clive — a bookmaker of doubtful integrity.





The animation of the actual race is astonishing for a Basic program and might inspire you to greater things in your own programming.

*Breakout* is a popular computer program that is so often included in books and magazines (and indeed on the Horizons demonstration tape), that it takes courage to try and sell one commercially. *Superball*, from Axis, attempts just that — is it worth buying? I think if you are a *Breakout* fan the answer is yes. Good sound, various options and machine code speed make it highly addictive and infuriating. There is a significant enough difference between this and what you might get for free elsewhere to justify paying for it.

## Your only allies are the Secret Police!

*Dictator* from DK Tronics is one of the most original games I have seen. It is a form of those "run the country" games where you have to balance various interests that conflict — but at such an ingenious and witty level it hardly betrays its origins.

You are the Dictator of "somewhere vaguely equatorial" and have two basic objectives — first to survive revolutions and assassination attempts, secondly to steal as much money as possible from your own treasury for your Swiss bank account.

Your only real allies are the Secret Police, who can give you police reports on the state of the various factions within the country. You can appease these factions by policy decisions — the problem is that these will either cost money or upset some other faction.

Failing to maintain this balance will result in plots against you and eventually a revolution which you may or may not survive. It is almost worth deliberately upsetting some group so that this situation occurs. The screen flashes red and battle begins with your weedy Spectrum sound device suddenly making impressive machine gun and bomb noises. Suddenly

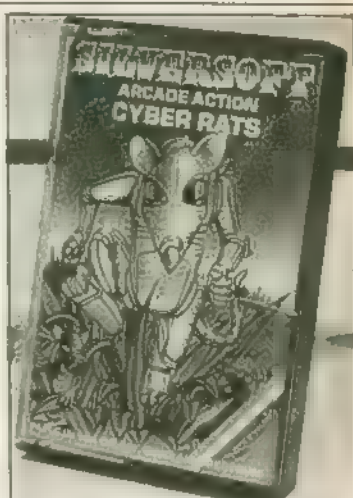


the screen goes black — have you survived or not?

It was instructive to discover how quickly you lose what liberal conscience you may have begun with in the pursuit of money and power. For example, I quickly lowered the minimum wage of the peasants to please the landowners.

An excellent game not exhausted by even dozens of plays.

Finally, an adventure game — or rather two adventure games. Micro-Gen's *Mines of Saturn* and *Return to Earth* are basic text adventures with all the usual features. For those new to adventuring, two games



for the price of one is good value. And being able to break into the Basic, usually a disadvantage, is helpful in gaining experience of how to solve the problems — useful for novices.

A mixed bag of software then, none of it actually bad value for money, but the quality both of programming and original thought differing widely. Being positive though, I would rate two of the games here, *Escape* and *Dictator*, as being amongst the best Spectrum games I have played.

Firm	Program	Cost	Value (1-10)
DK Tronics 29 Sussex Road Gorleston Great Yarmouth Norfolk	<i>Dictator</i> <i>Gentlepede</i>	£5.95 £4.95	9 7
CDS Micro Systems 10 Westfield Close Tickhill, Doncaster	<i>Leapfrog</i> <i>Caterpillar</i>	£4.95 £4.95	7 6
New Generation 16 Brendon Close Oldland Common Bristol BS15 6QE	<i>Escape</i> <i>Tunnel</i>	£4.95 £5.95	9 8
Silversoft London House 271-273 King Street London W5	<i>Cyber Rats</i>	£5.95	7
Axis (UK) 71 Brookfield Avenue Loughborough, Leics LE11 7LN	<i>Superball</i>	£5.95	8
Computer Rentals 140 Whitechapel Road London E1	<i>Derby Day</i>	£5.95	8
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# The mystery solved

Ian Logan explains some of the mysteries contained in the Draw command

There have been several requests in *Popular Computing Weekly* for an explanation to the phenomenon of the very attractive patterns produced by using the Draw command with high 'angles of turn' (for the best introduction see Nick Wilson's article, January 20-26 1983).

Patterns are produced as follows, eg: PLOT 50,50, DRAW 50,50,9999 which produces the pattern labelled Figure 1. So, just what is going wrong to give a pattern rather than a 'curved line'?

Well, the answer lies in the programmer failing to take the 'angle of turn' Mod  $2\pi$  — that is, using the 'remainder' after

dividing by  $2\pi$ . And, indeed, a curve is produced by: PLOT 50,50, DRAW 50,50,9999-2\*PI\*INT (9999/(2\*PI))

For the best patterns the number of arcs is 252 (the limiting value in the Rom program), as the pattern is built up by drawing a series of arcs. In the example — Draw 50,50,9999 — the first arc is much too long and the succeeding 251 arcs continue with the 'hunt' for the destination with an equal lack of success.

In order to show just how these patterns are produced, I have written the Draw an arc program. This is a Basic program that closely follows the algorithm used in the Draw routine of the Spectrum Rom. By having it in Basic, the user is able to see a pattern developing slowly and can use the Break key to modify the program easily. Indeed, by adding the line:



65 LET G=G-2\*PI\*INT (G/(2\*PI))

the patterns are abolished as predicted.

The variable labels M0-M4 refer to the 'calculator's memory area and the variable label Sc to the machine stack. Figures 2-4 show a range of patterns produced by this program.

```

10 REM ■ DRAW AN ARC PROGRAM
20 PLOT 75,35: REM just a suit
30 INPUT "X value ";X: PRINT "
X = "
40 INPUT "Y value ";Y: PRINT "
Y = "
50 INPUT "Angle ";G: PRINT "
Angle = "
60 REM How many arcs?
70 LET Z=ABS ((ABS X+ABS Y)/SI
N (9/2))
80 LET ARCS=4*INT (INT (ABS (9
+50N Z)+0.5)/B)+4
90 IF ARCS>252 THEN LET ARCS=2
52
100 PRINT "ARCS = ";ARCS
110 LET W=SI (9/(2*ARCS))/SI
(9/2)
120 LET M0=PEEK 23675
130 LET Sc=PEEK 23677
140 LET F=.5*(9-G/ARCS)
150 LET M1=W*SI F+X*W*CO5 F
160 LET M2=W*W*CO5 F-X*W*SI F
170 LET M3=CO5 (9/ARCS)
180 LET M4=SI (9/ARCS)
190 REM "DRAW THE ARCS"
200 LET M0=M0+M2
210 LET Sc=Sc+M4
220 LET X=Sc-PEEK 23677
230 LET Y=M0-PEEK 23675
240 GO SUB B10
250 LET ARCS=ARCS-1: IF ARCS=0
THEN STOP
270 LET M1=M1
280 LET M1=M1+M3-M2+M4
290 LET M2=M1+M4+M2+M3
300 GO TO 210
310 REM "DRAW A LINE" from last
position to X,Y
510 LET PLOTX=PEEK 23677: LET P
LOTY=PEEK 23675
520 LET dx=SGN X: LET dy=SGN Y
530 LET X=ABS X: LET Y=ABS Y
540 IF X=Y THEN GO TO 580
550 LET L=X: LET B=Y
560 LET ddx=0: LET ddy=dy
570 GO TO 610
580 IF X-Y=0 THEN STOP
590 LET L=Y: LET B=X
600 LET ddx=dx: LET ddy=0
610 LET H=B
620 LET I=INT (B/2)
630 FOR N=B TO 1 STEP -1
640 LET J=I+L
650 IF J THEN GO TO 690
660 LET J=-H
670 LET ix=dx: LET iy=dy
680 GO TO 700
690 LET ix=ddx: LET iy=ddy
700 LET PLOTX=PLOTX+ix
710 IF PLOTX<0 OR PLOTX>175 THE
N STOP
720 LET PLOTX=PLOTX+ix
730 IF PLOTX<0 OR PLOTX>255 THE
N STOP
740 PLOT PLOTX,PLOTY
750 NEXT N
760 RETURN

```

PLOT 50,50, DRAW 50,50,9999



Fig 1

X = 50 Y = 50 Angle = 9999  
ARCS = 252



Fig 2

X = 50 Y = 50 Angle = 720  
ARCS = 252



Fig 3

X = .045 Y = 0 Angle = 395.  
84165  
ARCS = 252



Angle is  $126\pi + 1/1824$   
Credit to Mr. P. Ainsworth

Fig 4



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## Graphic exercises . . .

*Simon Cross presents an animated graphics program for the 3K Jupiter Ace*

This is a program for the 3K Jupiter Ace. It demonstrates how smooth animated graphics can be produced by redefining characters whilst the program is running. The program prints a squad of 112 men on the screen who then go through a series of arm exercises. Unfortunately, the limitations of the 3K memory do not permit leg movements or the use of sound.

Type in the word definitions in the usual way and Save the program on tape. The

program is Run by typing *Drill* and then pressing *Enter*. You can put the men through your own routine by typing *Invis drill* and pressing *Enter* followed by *Break*. Letters *a* to *j* can then be entered to produce single movements of the men (unfortunately, *Error 3* still remains printed at the bottom of the screen).

**Program notes**

Each man consists of four user-defined

characters as follows:

ASCII CODE	CHARACTER
1	left top half
2	left bottom half
3	right top half
4	right bottom half

The squad of men is printed on the screen by the *Do-loop* before *Begin* in the word *Drill*. Their movements are produced by redefining the characters of which they are composed. This gives a smooth and simultaneous movement of all the men which could not be achieved by printing different characters "on top" of the original characters. The words *a* to *j* merely put the numbers necessary to redefine the character on to the stack and these numbers are then read into the character set memory by a *Do-Loop*.

```
Z
DO
  I C'
LOOP
```

```
A
006 002 002 002
002 003 011 011
011 015 001 001
003 003 007 003
11200 11272 Z
```

```
B
096 064 064 064
064 192 208 208
208 240 128 128
192 192 224 192
11304 11288 Z
```

```
C
006 002 002 002
002 003 003 003
003 127 001 001
003 003 007 003
11200 11272 Z
```

```
D
096 064 064 064
064 192 192 192
192 254 128 128
192 192 224 192
11304 11288 Z
```

```
E
027 039 065 001
003 003 007 003
11200 11272 Z
```

```
F
216 228 130 128
192 192 224 192
11296 11200 Z
```

```
G
003 007 009 017
035 067 007 003
11200 11272 Z
```

```
H
192 224 144 136
196 194 224 192
11296 11200 Z
```

```
I
003 007 009 017
019 011 007 003
11200 11272 Z
```

```
J
192 224 144 136
200 208 224 192
11296 11200 Z
```

```
*
1500 0
DO
LOOP
```

```
DRILL
CLS 7 0
DO
  16 0
DO
  " (Graphics A,C)"
LOOP
  16 0
DO
  " (Graphics B,D)"
LOOP
CR
LOOP
BEGIN
  AB * C *
  D * E * F
  * G * H *
  I * J * H
  * G * F *
  E * D * C
  * B * A *
  0
UNTIL
```



# Drawing the line . . .

**Calvin Woodings explains the ins and outs of linear regression and correlation**

One of the most common forms of experiment involves measuring the response of a variable ( $Y$ ) to changes, either deliberate or random, in a second variable ( $X$ ). When the experiment is complete, the results are plotted on graph paper to see how the relationship between  $X$  and  $Y$  looks. Sometimes a straight line can be drawn through the plotted points, and this line can be used to deduce values of  $Y$  from new and unmeasured values of  $X$  and vice-versa.

Such lines are represented by the equation  $Y = mX + c$  where ' $m$ ' is a parameter expressing the slope of the line, and ' $c$ ' is the value of  $Y$  where the line crosses the  $Y$  axis. All is simple and straightforward, so long as the plotted points form a reasonably straight run through which the line can be drawn without too much uncertainty. Unfortunately, in real-life situations there are all too many occasions where the plotted points appear more like frogspawn than a straight line and, as a consequence, there are real problems in deciding where to draw the line.

This program helps you to deal with all eventualities. Whether the data is good or bad it plots the points, and uses the least squares method to draw the best lines relating  $X$  and  $Y$ . Two lines arise because, in cases where the correlation between  $X$  and  $Y$  is less than perfect, the best estimate of  $Y$  from  $X$  requires a different line from that giving the best estimate of  $X$  from  $Y$ . These two lines are called the regression lines, and a full explanation of their derivation will be found in statistics textbooks.

Having drawn the two regression lines, the computer then prints out the two equations for these lines and the correlation coefficient for the data as a whole. You can estimate intermediate values of the variables, either from the lines by inspection, or from the equations by substitution. If you feel that the latter approach is more suited to your needs, you could easily add an additional procedure to request values of  $X$  or  $Y$  and print out the corresponding estimate of  $Y$  or  $X$  using the appropriate equation.

The illustration shows how the program presents its results. Actual points are given by the '+' signs. The best line for estimating  $Y$  from  $X$  is the bold line — the dotted line (or the fainter line if you don't have a monitor!) being the best line for estimating  $X$  from  $Y$ . They intersect at a point which gives the mean values of the data.

The equations of the two regression lines contain the computed values for slope and intercept. These, along with the correlation coefficient, are printed out in whichever top corner is free of plotted points.

Looking further at the example graph, you can see that the scatter of results is quite large and that without the use of the least squares technique within the program the best lines would be difficult to draw. The negative correlation coefficient indicates that  $Y$  (ie, the exam mark) decreases as  $X$  (ie, hours viewed) increases. The value of 0.738 suggests a reasonable correlation, a value of 1.00 would have been perfect correlation, and a value of zero would have indicated no relationship.

If you wanted to know the most likely mark for a child who watched 300 hours tv in the final term, the answer would be  $-0.102 \times 300 + 88.2$  or 57.6 percent. The same deduction could have been made visually (and approximately) by reading off the  $Y$  axis value corresponding to where the vertical from 300 on the  $X$  axis cuts the bold ("Y on X" regression) line.

The other equation corresponds to the dotted regression line ("X on Y") and would be used if you knew the exam marks and wanted to deduce the hours of tv viewed.

The program only works for data which obeys the straight law ( $Y = mX + c$ ). It will draw a line through points which are obviously better fitted by a curve, and under these circumstances the equations printed are meaningless. All is not lost, however. The data input routine will accept expressions, so you could re-enter the data using a function (logarithm, for instance) of  $X$  to see if this improves linearity.

Before describing the program, and before irate students or teachers reach for their Letters-to-the-Editor pen, I should explain that the data used in the example graph is entirely fictitious, however plausible it may seem to some parents!

## Program notes

The need to enter and edit pairs of data points means that some of the utility procedures are different from those used in the previous two programs (see *PCW*, issues 16 and 17). However, functions 'input' and 'yes-no', along with procedures 'double-height' and 'continue', are the same as before, despite a slightly space-saving change in appearance. These could be entered from tape if you have already typed one of the earlier programs.

The main routine at lines 50 to 160 is simply a series of questions, the responses to which determine the procedures to be called.

*Procanalysis* is used every time data has been entered or altered, and it works out the correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) and the regression equations constants ( $m$  and  $c$  for "Y on X";  $m1$  and  $c1$  for "X on Y"). Along the way, it works out the means and standard deviations of the data to substitute in the equations given in lines 1070 to 1090. It also establishes the highest and lowest values of the data for scaling purposes (lines 940-1000).

*Proplot* draws the border (line 1140), the axes (line 1160), the points (lines 1170-1190), the bold regression line (lines 1200-1210) and the dotted regression line (lines 1220-1230), all using the false origin created by *Vdu29* at line 1150. It then calls *Proclabel* which labels the axes (lines 1270 to 1360), prints the equations (lines 1370-1400) and labels the graph (line 1410). The operation of the other procedures is fairly clear thanks to the BBC's ability to use long variable names in a well-structured layout.

Numerous extensions to the program are possible and, for my own use (no space restraints), I print out a second results page with the means, standard deviations, high and low values and the interpolation requests. I also call a machine code screen dump before finishing so that an attractive hard copy of the graph can be obtained quickly.

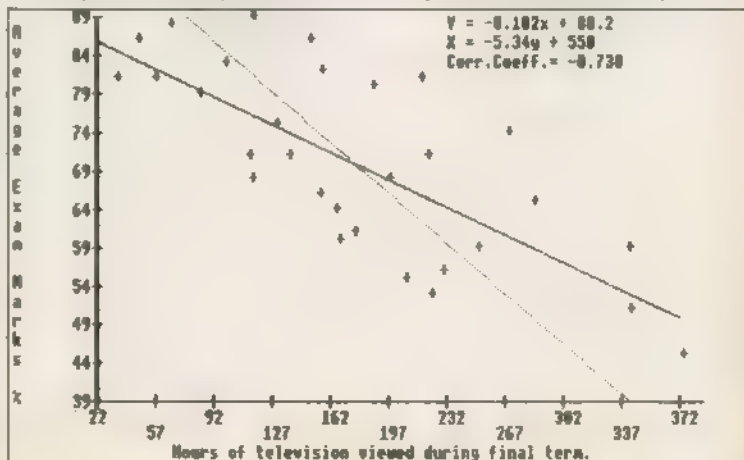


FIG 1. CORRELATION BETWEEN EXAMINATION RESULTS AND TELEVISION VIEWING HABITS

```

10 REM STATISTICS/LINEAR REGRESSION AND
   CORRELATION
20 REM (C) L.R. MOODINGS/APRIL 1987
30 REM FOR BBC MICRO MODEL B
40 DIM data(99), ydata(99): k=0: title$=""
60 MODE1: PROCtitle
70 REPEAT
80 MODE1: IF FNyes_no(5,10,"Start with fresh
   data") OR k=0 MODE1: PROCdataload
90 MODE1: IF FNyes_no(10,10,"See and edit")
   MODE1: PROCreview
100 PROCanalysis
110 MODE1: IF FNyes_no(7,10,"New graph titles")
   OR title$="" PROCgraph
120 CLS: IF FNyes_no(5,10,"Select the graph
   origin") PROCorigin
130 MODE1: PROCplot: REPEAT UNTIL GET
140 UNTIL NOT FNyes_no(12,VD5+1,"Another run")
150 MODE1: PROCdouble_height(8,"BYE",132)
160 END
180 DEFPROCtitle
190 PROCdouble_height(8,"STATISTICS",132)
200 PROCdouble_height(12,"Linear Regression
   and Correlation",131)
210 PROCcontinue: ENDPROC
230 DEFPROCdouble_height(row, words$, colour)
240 column=INT((40-LEN(words$))/2)-2
250 FOR i=row TO row+1: PRINT TAB(column,i):
   CHR$(141) CHR$(141) CHR$(141) CHR$(141)
260 NEXT i: ENDPROC
280 DEFPFNyes_no(x,y,A$)
290 LOCAL ans: PRINT: PRINT TAB(x,y): A$="
   (Y/N) " :
300 REPEAT: ans=GET AND $DF: UNTIL ans$=59
   OR ans$=74: PRINT: CHR$(141) CHR$(141)
   CHR$(141) CHR$(141) CHR$(141) CHR$(141)
310
330 DEFPROCcontinue
340 PRINT TAB(7,23) "Press any key to continue
   " : REPEAT UNTIL GET: ENDPROC
360 DEFPROCdataload
370 CLS: COLOUR 2: PRINT TAB(14,2) "DATA LOADING:
380 PRINT TAB(2,4) "Expressions are accepted:
   End with 00"
390
400 COLOUR 3: VDU28,0,31,39,6: k=1
410 PRINT TAB(11) "Max. no of pairs " :
420 array=VALFNinput(12,39,58): PRINT
430 REPEAT
440 PRINT TAB(2): k: TAB(5,VD5) "X=" :
450 data$=FNinput(10,39,58): xdata(k)=
   EVAL data$
460 IF LEFT$(data$,2)=""00" THEN 480
470 PRINT TAB(25,VD5) "Y=" : data$=FNinput
   (10,39,58): ydata(k)=EVAL data$
480 k=k+1: PRINT
490 UNTIL LEFT$(data$,2)=""00" OR k=array:
   k=k-1: ENDPROC
500 DEFPFNinput(len, loASC, hiASC)
510 LOCAL k%, Z%: k=0: In$="" : PRINT " ":
   REPEAT: Z%=GET
520 IF Z%=127 AND k%>0 THEN k%=k-1: In$=LEFT
   $(In$,k%): VDU27
530 IF Z%>loASC AND Z%<hiASC AND Z%<hiASC THEN
   k%=k+1: In$=In$+CHR$(Z%): VDU27
540 UNTIL Z%=13 AND k%<4
550 =In$
570 DEFPROCreview
580 VDU28: CLS: COLOUR 2: PRINT TAB(14,2)
   "DATA EDITING:"
590 COLOUR 3: VDU28,0,31,39,6: L=0: M=0
600 REPEAT: L=5: FOR N=1 TO 10
610 IF N=L+1 THEN 640
620 PRINT TAB(2): N: L: TAB(5,VD5) "X=" : xdata
   (N): L: TAB(25,VD5) "Y=" : ydata(N): L
630 NEXT
640 PRINT TAB(10,15) SPC15
650 IF FNyes_no(8,15,"Change an entry")
   PROCchange: GO TO 540
660 L=L+10: UNTIL N=L-11
670 IF M<k THEN M=k
680 PRINT TAB(10,15) SPC15
690 IF FNyes_no(8,15,"Another look ")
   PROCreview
695 ENDPROC
710 DEFPROCchange
720 PRINT TAB(12,17) "Which pair " : M=VAL
   FNinput(3,47,58)
730 PRINT TAB(2,18) "New X=" : xdata(M)=EVAL
   FNinput(10,39,58)
740 PRINT TAB(20,18) "New Y=" : ydata(M)=EVAL
   FNinput(10,39,58): ENDPROC
760 DEFPROCgraph
770 PROCdisplay(0,10,132,"Enter the graph
   title. (Up to 79 chars.)")
780 title$=FNinput(79,31,127)
790 PROCdisplay(2,10,132,"Enter X-axis label
   (Up to 60 chars.)")
800 xlabel$=FNinput(60,31,127)
810 PROCdisplay(2,10,132,"Enter Y-axis label
   (Up to 20 chars.)")
820 ylabel$=FNinput(20,31,127): ENDPROC
840 DEFPROCdisplay(x,y,colour,A$)
850 CLS: PRINT TAB(x,y): CHR$(colour): A$:
   PRINT: ENDPROC
870 DEFPROCorigin
880 PROCdisplay(2,10,130,"Enter X-axis
   origin. (X-axis units)")
890 xmin=VALFNinput(10,39,58)
900 PROCdisplay(2,10,130,"Enter Y-axis
   origin. (Y-axis units)")
910 ymin=VALFNinput(10,39,58): ENDPROC
930 DEFPROCanalysis
940 xsum=0: ysum=0: kmax=-1E37: ymax=-1E37
950 xmin=1E37: ymin=1E37: xsum=xsum+ysum+0.5
   ysum=y
960 FOR N=1 TO k
970 IF xdata(N) > ymax THEN ymax=xdata(N)
980 IF ydata(N) > ymax THEN ymax=ydata(N)
990 IF xdata(N) < xmin THEN xmin=xdata(N)
1000 IF ydata(N) < ymin THEN ymin=ydata(N)
1010 xsum=xsum+xdata(N): ysum=ysum+ydata(N)
1020 xsum=xsum+xdata(N): ydata(N)
1030 xsum=xsum+ydata(N): ysum=ysum+y
   data(N)-2
1040 NEXT
1050 xmean=xsum/k: ymean=ysum/k
1060 stddevx=SQR(1/2sum(k-xmean-2):stddevy=
   SQR(1/2sum(k-ymean-2)
1070 r=(xsum/k-ymean*ymean)/(stddevx*stddevy)
1080 m=stddevy/stddevx: c=ymean-m*xmean
1090 a1=r*(stddevx*stddevy): c1=ymean-m1*ymean
   ENDPROC
1110 DEFPROCplot
1120 VDU26,19,1,0:0,19,0,7:0:1:CLS: a%=8307
1130 Yscale=800/(ymax-ymin): Xscale=1000/
   (xmax-xmin)
1140 MOVE 4,4: DRAW4,1019: DRAW1 275,1019:
1150 DRAW1 275,4: DRAW4,4
1160 VDU29,160,200:5
1170 MOVE 4,-161: DRAW4,800: MOVE 0,800: DRAW0,
   -161: MOVE -20,0: DRAW1 040,0
1170 FOR N=1 TO k
1180 MOVE xdata(N)-xmin: Xscale, ydata(N)-
   ymin: Yscale:161: PH(N) " "
1190 NEXT
1200 MOVE 0, (cmin+3m): ymin: Xscale
1210 DRAW(xmax-xmin: Xscale, (cmax+3m-c1-ymin):
   Yscale
1220 MOVE (ymin+3m): ymin: Xscale,0
1230 PLOT(1,1, (ymax+3m-c1)-ymin: Xscale,
   (ymax-ymin): Yscale)
1240 PROC: a1=VDU4,31,0,5: a%=10: ENDPROC
1260 DEFPROClabel
1270 XZ=0: pos=16: FOR i=0 TO 10: Z%=N$100: YZ=
   N$0+28
1280 MOVE XZ-8,12: PRINT "1"
1290 MOVE XZ-10,-36: pos=PRINT: i=i+1: N$
   (xmax-xmin)/10: pos=pos
1300 MOVE -8,YZ: PRINT " " : MOVE -124,YZ-14:
   PRINT: ymin+NR (ymax-ymin)/10
1310 NEXT
1320 D=LEN(xlabel$): E=INT(61-D)/2: MOVE
   E+16,-90: PRINT: xlabel$
1330 D=LEN(ylabel$): E=INT(11-D)/2
1340 FOR N=1 TO 0
1350 MOVE -14B, (B40-E+40)-N:40: PRINT: i=i+1
   (ylabel$,N,1)
1360 NEXT
1370 q=SGN(r): REM DECIDES ON POSITION
   POSITION
1380 MOVE 350-(q*250),800: PRINT "r = " : i=i+1
   + "c"
1390 MOVE 350-(q*250),780: PRINT "x = " : i=i+1
   + "c"
1400 MOVE 350-(q*250),720: PRINT "Corr. Coeff. =
   " : r
1410 VDU26: D=LEN(title$): E=INT(81-D)/2: MOVE
   E+16,40: PRINT: title$: ENDPROC

```



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The Machine Code Test Tool is a program which allows you to test your Sinclair computer's machine code. It is a very useful program for testing your own programs and for testing the performance of your computer.

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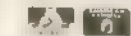
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Mike Hampson  
Hereford Drive, Clitheroe  
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# Cursor on the move!

**A Edwards** explains how to move a cursor over the hi-res graphics screen

This program allows the user to move a cursor over the high resolution graphics screen without destroying any part of the picture underneath. When the program is run, a random picture of lines, boxes and circles is drawn together with a cursor in the centre of the screen.

To move the cursor, press the appropriate arrow key, which causes the cursor to flash. With this key held down, press a number from 1-9 to select the cursor

speed. Now the cursor will move in the chosen direction at this speed as long as the arrow key is depressed.

Line 10 sets up the arrays for the cursor and picture, while lines 20-50 draw the cursor. Line 60 gets the cursor into array C and lines 70-120 draw the random picture.

Line 540 gets the picture to draw, 17 while the cursor is to be moved. Line 640 puts the cursor on to this part of the

picture. The speed of the cursor is set by line 540 while line 550 detects which arrow key is pressed.

Lines 570-630 check that the cursor will not move off the screen and set the direction variables A or B. Line 640 puts the picture back where the cursor is and line 650 moves the cursor.

## Variables

A, B: direction  
C: cursor array  
D: picture array  
G: speed of cursor  
Q: picture number  
S: screen number

## PROGRAM LISTING

```

2: REM*****
3: REM*** HIGH RES CURSOR ***
4: REM*** A.N. EDWARDS 83 ***
5: REM*****
10: DIM C(0,6),D(0,6)
20: PMODE 4,1:PCLS
30: LINE(0,0)-(6,6),PSET
40: LINE(0,6)-(6,0),PSET
50: RESET(3,3)
60: GET(0,0)-(6,6),C,G
70: PCLS:SCRBEN 1,0
80: FOR L=1 TO 5
90: LINE(RND(255),RND(191))-(RND(255),RND(191)),PSET
100: LINE(RND(255),RND(191))-(RND(255),RND(191)),PSET,B
110: CIRCLE(RND(255),RND(191)),RND(50)
120: NEXT L
500: X=125,Y=93
510: GET(X,Y)-(X+6,Y+6),D,G
520: PUT(X,Y)-(X+6,Y+6),C,OR
530: FOR L=0 TO 3
540: Q=INKEY$:IF Q/<>"" THEN S=VAL(Q)
550: IF PEEK(L+341)=223 THEN ON L+1 GOTO 570,590,610,620
560: NEXT L:GOTO 530
570: IF Y>S-1 THEN B=-S
580: GOTO 640
590: IF Y<185-S THEN B=S
600: GOTO 640
610: IF X>S-1 THEN A=-S
620: GOTO 640
630: IF X<249-S THEN A=S
640: PUT(X,Y)-(X+6,Y+6),D,PSET
650: X=X+A,Y=Y+B,A=0:B=0
660: GOTO 510
    
```



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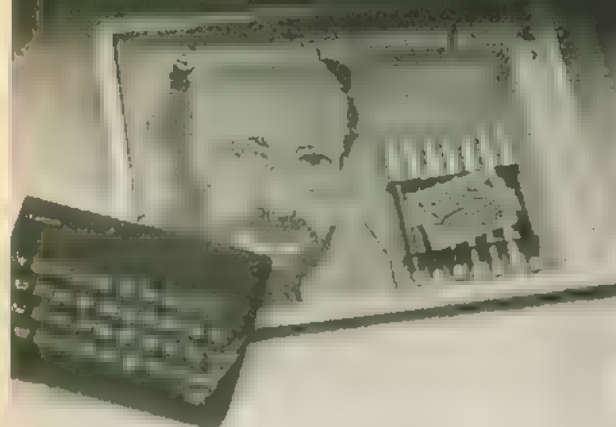
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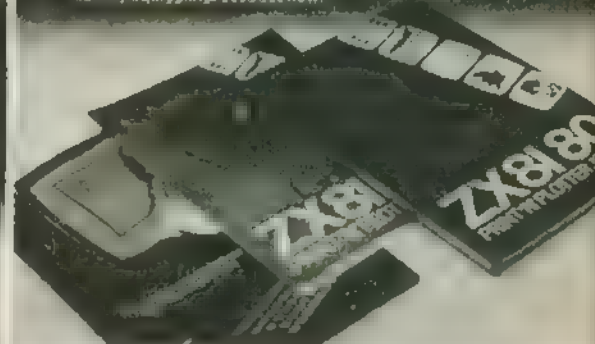
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# OPEN FORUM

**Open Forum** is for you to publish your programs and ideas. Take care that the listings you send in are all bug-free. Your documentation should start with a general description of the program and what it does and then give some detail of how the program is constructed. We will pay the *Program of the Week* double our new fee of £6 for each program published.

## Digits

### on ZX81

It is a mathematical fact, though not widely known, that if a multi-digit number has its digits scrambled — and then the resultant number subtracted from the original, the remainder is always divisible by 9.

This program which just fits into 1K demonstrates this fact and at the same time illustrates some uses of the functions "Inkey\$", "Str\$", "Val", "Abs", "Int" plus

ZX81 string slicing and concatenation.

### Program notes

"Input" in Line 10 is the keyword. The Time Delay at Lines 12-13 is to give you time to get your finger off the "Newline" key before the "Inkey\$" function returns an error code C:20. Think about it! Replacing this with "12 Pause 5" gives a screen flicker to emphasise the prompt. Line 40 generates a random number with the number of digits specified in Line 20. Line 50 ensures that it does contain the full

number of digits.

Line 70 converts the number to a string which is then sliced and scrambled in the loop 90-120 while the subroutine at 300 converts the string variable back into a numeric and performs the arithmetic. The use of Abs in Line 300 ensures that if the scrambled number comes out larger than the original we don't get a negative result. The counter C and line 200 just allow the ZX81 to tell you "I told you so!"

This program only just fits into 1K and tends to run out of memory if numbers with over 6 digits are specified. If this annoys you delete Lines 11, 200, 330. Numbers with more than 7 digits make the screen display untidy, but you can't do much about this in 1K. If you want to try numbers with more than 9 digits delete Line 15 and change Line 20 to "Input N".

```
10 PRINT " INPUT NO. OF
   DIGITS";
11 LET C=0
12 FOR T=1 TO 10
13 NEXT T
15 IF INKEY$="" THEN GOTO 12
20 LET N=VAL INKEY$
30 PRINT " - ";N;
40 LET A=INT (RND*10**(N+1))+1
50 IF A(10**(N-1)) THEN GOTO
   40
60 PRINT A;
70 LET A$=STR$ A
80 LET L=LEN A$
90 FOR I=1 TO L-1
100 LET A$=A$(2 TO )+A$(1 TO 1)
110 GOSUB 300
120 NEXT I
```

```
200 IF C=L-1 THEN PRINT AT
   20.5, "INTEGER DIVISION"
210 FOR T=1 TO 200
211 NEXT T
220 CLS
230 GOTO 10
300 LET X=ABS (A-VAL A$)
310 PRINT TAB L;" - ";A$;" = ";
   X;" / 9 = ";X/9
320 PRINT
330 IF X/9=INT X/9 THEN
   LET C=C+1
350 RETURN
```

Digits

by John Priest

## Mirror Graphics

### on Spectrum

A graphics utility program allowing user-defined graphics on the 16K or 48K Spectrum to be easily manipulated. It is possible to mirror, invert or rotate characters with the touch of a button.

First, find the copy of the Horizons tape that came with your Spectrum, and blow the dust off it. Wind it on to near the end of side B and type Load "character" (Enter).

Once the program has loaded break into it and type in the lines as on the computer printout. It should now be possible simply to enter "m", "i" or "r" when prompted to change any of the user-defined graphics. To save the program simply type "Goto 9000" and the rest is done for you.

The user-defined graphics character is inverted simply by Peeking the eighth decimal number which makes up each character, and Poking 255-that number. The mirrored character is produced by calculating the binary value of the Peaked

number and working out the decimal equivalent if the number were reversed; ie, 10011111 becomes 11111001. Rotation of the character is done by calculating the binary values as above which are then stored in a string. Every eighth character is sliced from the string, the decimal value calculated which is Poked into the user-defined graphics area.

Due to lack of memory in the 16K Spectrum, it may be necessary to delete the Rem statements and some of the instructions.

```
1460 PRINT "M to mirror character"
1470 PRINT "I to inverse character"
1480 PRINT "R to rotate character"
1560 IF A$="r" THEN GO SUB 9800
1570 IF A$="i" THEN GO SUB 9800
1580 IF A$="m" THEN GO SUB 9800
9800 REM Inverse character
9810 LET d$="inversed" GO SUB 9
9900
9820 FOR r=USR c$ TO USR c$+7
9830 POKE r,255-PEEK r NEXT r
9840 GO SUB 9950: RETURN
9700 REM Mirror character
9710 LET d$="mirrored" GO SUB 9
9900
9720 FOR u=USR c$ TO USR c$+7
LET total=0: LET o=128: LET h=1
9730 LET g=PEEK u
9740 FOR v=0 TO 7
9750 IF g/2=1 THEN LET total=total+
1: LET g=g/2
9760 LET o=o/2: LET h=h*2
9770 NEXT v: POKE u,total NEXT
u
9780 GO SUB 9950: RETURN
9800 REM Rotated character
9810 LET d$="rotated": GO SUB 99
9900
```

```
9820 LET h$=""
9830 FOR u=USR c$ TO USR c$+7: L
ET o=128
9840 LET g=PEEK u
9850 FOR v=0 TO 7
9860 IF g/2=1 THEN LET h$=h$+"1"
LET g=g/2: LET o=o/2: NEXT v
NEXT u
9870 LET h$=h$+"0": LET o=o/2: N
EXT v NEXT u
9872 FOR u=0 TO 7
9873 POKE USR c$+v,VAL h$(1+u)+2
VAL h$(9+u)+4+VAL h$(17+u)+8+VAL
h$(25+u)+16+VAL h$(33+u)+32+VAL
h$(41+u)+64+VAL h$(49+u)+128+VAL
h$(57+u)
9874 NEXT u
9890 GO TO 9950
9900 INPUT "Which letter to be "
(d$), " ", LINE c$
9910 IF c$(1) OR c$(2) OR c$(3) OR c$(4) OR c$(5) OR c$(6) OR c$(7) OR c$(8) THEN GO SUB 9920
9920 RETURN
9950 PRINT AT 1,0;: GO SUB 6070:
RETURN
```

Mirror Graphics

by N Osborn



## Snake Island

on BBC Micro

The program is called Snake Island and runs in 32K without any additional hardware. Therefore, it will work on any Model B or Model A with 32K. Before describing how the program works, I will give a short description of the game.

You, the player, take control of a man trapped on a small island. Do not worry, you are not alone. You are accompanied by a horde of hungry, man-eating snakes. Also scattered about the island are a number of deadly pits. The idea of the game is for you to try to live as long as possible. The best way to do this is to avoid being eaten by the snakes and avoid falling down a pit.

The only way for you to kill a snake is to lure it into a pit, using yourself as bait! Most pits are only big enough to hold one snake, so do not go skulking behind a single pit hoping to live. The snakes have a very keen sense of smell, and will always try to move towards you, but they are not very intelligent. Most of them are easily lured

into a pit, but you will get an occasional intelligent one which realises there is a large hole in between itself and you.


To make the game more interesting, there are also a number of snake eggs scattered around the island. These will spasmodically change into a snake during the game, catching you by surprise. The only way to avoid the reappearance of these extra snakes is to trample the eggs while you can. 10 points per level are gained for each snake eliminated and 25 points per level for every egg "scrambled".

After clearing the screen of snakes, another is put up with even more of them. You start off with three men, but you quickly lose them. The control keys used are as follows:

W for up  
X for down  
A for left  
D for right

It is possible to get diagonal movement by pressing a combination of the Basic Keys at the same time. To help you I will give you one hint. Try to get the eggs as quickly as possible, otherwise they have the annoying habit of changing just as you are about to run over them.

### Line(s)

30-70 Reset high score table  
90-150 Display high scores  
160 Clear keyboard buffer  
170-240 Ask whether instructions are needed  
250-550 Print instructions in double height  
560 Set number of men left to 3  
570 16 colour mode 20 x 32 text  
580 Make cursor invisible  
590 Define snake  
600 Define man  
610 Define pit  
620 Define egg  
630 What character is under cursor, routine (NB change F # #)  
640 Number of pits  
650 Number of snakes  
660 Set up screen  
670-750 Your move  
760-790 Have you  anything?  
800-830 Are the eggs ready to change yet?  
840-1010 Move snakes  
1030-1520 Set up screen  
1530-1560 Read Character at x, y position  
1570-1640 A snake has died  
1650-1750 You have died  
1770-1810 Print your score  
1820-1860 Is your score good enough to be put in the high score table?  
1870-1990 Play again  
1910-1970 Error in program  
1980-2010 Print in double height  
2020-2200 Put your name in high score table  
2210-2300 You have run over an egg  
2310-2420 An egg has changed into a snake

**PROGRAM OF THE WEEK**

```
* REM
1 REM SNAKE ISLAND
2 REM
3 REM by J.R.Wilson
4 REM
10 DIM X(10),Y(10),OX(10),M(10),N(10),T(10)
20 X=1:Y=10
30 HX=2560
40 NX=2600
50 FOR I=0 TO 4
60 IF VAL$(HX+I*7)=0 THEN S(HX+I*7)="
  000000":S(NX+I*20)="*****"
70 NEXT
80 ON ERROR GOTO 1910
90 MODE7
100 PRINT ""
110 PROC("Today's top five:")
120 FOR I=0 TO 4
130 PRINT
140 PROC(" "+S(HX+I*7)+" "+S(NX+I*20))
150 NEXT
160 #FX15,1
170 A=INKEY(300)
180 CLS
190 PRINT TAB(0,10)
200 PROC("Do you want instructions?")
210 AS=GET$
220 IF AS="Y" THEN 250
230 IF AS="N" THEN 560
240 GOTO 210
250 CLS
260 PRINT
270 PROC(CHR$136+CHR$132+CHR$157+CHR$134+
  SNAKE ISLAND)
280 PRINT
290 PROC(" You are trapped on an island ")
300 PROC("surrounded by snakes and pits.You")
310 PROC("must try to stay alive as long as")
320 PROC("possible by killing the snakes.
  The ")
330 PROC("only way you can do this is to
  lure")
340 PROC("them into the pits.")
350 PROC("Unfortunately, only one snake will
  fit")
360 PROC("in a pit.")
370 PRINT
380 PROC("Press the"+CHR$136+"SPACE BAR"+
  CHR$137+"to continue.")
```

```
390 REPEAT UNTIL GET$=" "
400 CLS
410 PRINT
420 PROC(" To move your man, you use the")
430 PROC("following control keys:")
440 PRINT
450 PROC(" W for up")
460 PROC(" X for down")
470 PROC(" A for left")
480 PROC(" D for right.")
490 PRINT
500 PROC("Bonus points can be gained by
  crushing")
510 PROC("the eggs. Don't take too long as
  they")
520 PROC("change into snakes.")
530 PRINT
540 PROC("Press the"+CHR$136+"SPACE BAR"+
  CHR$137+"to start.")
550 REPEAT UNTIL GET$=" "
560 BLOKE=3
570 MODE 2
580 VDU 23:8202:0:0:0:
590 VDU 23,224,0,0,128,72,84,85,34,0
600 VDU 23,225,24,24,60,90,24,60,36,36
610 VDU 23,226,255,129,129,129,129,129,
  129,255
620 VDU 23,227,0,0,0,24,24,0,0,0
630 PX=0:LOPT 0:LDAE135:JSR&FFF4:STX&70:RTS:J
640 TRAPS=20
650 SNAKES=10
660 SC=0
670 LZ=0
680 WZ=0
690 PROCscreen
700 PRINT TAB(X,Y):" "
710 PRINT TAB(2,2):"SCORE =":SC
720 IF INKEY(-66) AND X>1 THEN X=X-1
730 IF INKEY(-51) AND X<18 THEN X=X+1
740 IF INKEY(-34) AND Y>5 THEN Y=Y-1
750 IF INKEY(-67) AND Y<30 THEN Y=Y+1
760 IF FNP(X,Y)=224 OR ?&70=226 THEN PROCend
770 COLOUR 7
780 IF ?&70=227 THEN PROCsquares
790 PRINT TAB(X,Y):CHR$225:
800 EX=EX+1:IF EX/EGGS THEN EX=0
810 IF T(EX)=0 THEN PROCchange
820 T(EX)=T(EX)-1
830 IF T(EX)=1 THEN SOUND 3,17,200,2
840 COLOUR 6
```

```

850 LX=LX+1
860 IF LX>SNAKES THEN LX=0
870 IF Y(LX)=-1 THEN 850
880 IF RND(5)=1 THEN 700
890 PRINT TAB(X(LX),Y(LX));" ";
900 A=0:B=0
910 IF X(LX)>X THEN A=-1
920 IF X(LX)<X THEN A=1
930 IF Y(LX)>Y THEN B=-1
940 IF Y(LX)<Y THEN B=1
950 IF FNP(X(LX)+A,Y(LX)+B)=226 AND RND(5)=1
    THEN A=0:B=0
960 IF ?%70=224 OR ?%70=227 THEN A=0:B=0
970 X(LX)=X(LX)+A
980 Y(LX)=Y(LX)+B
990 IF ?%70=225 THEN PROCend
1000 IF ?%70=226 THEN PROCsnuffit:GOTO 700
1010 PRINT TAB(X(LX),Y(LX));CHR$224;
1020 GOTO 700
1030 DEF PROCscreen
1040 X1=X:Y1=Y
1050 TRAPS=TRAPS-1
1060 EGGS=RND(9)+2
1070 IF TRAPS<SNAKES+EGGS THEN
    TRAPS=SNAKES+EGGS
1080 WX=WZ+1
1090 LEFT=SNAKES+1
1100 COLOUR 130
1110 CLS
1120 COLOUR 132
1130 VDU 28,1,30,18,5
1140 CLS
1150 VDU 26
1160 COLOUR 1
1170 FOR I=0 TO TRAPS
1180 X=RND(18)
1190 Y=RND(24)+5
1200 IF FNP(X,Y1)>32 THEN 1180
1210 IF X=X1 AND Y=Y1 THEN 1180
1220 PRINT TAB(X,Y);CHR$226;
1230 NEXT
1240 COLOUR 6
1250 FOR I=0 TO SNAKES
1260 X=RND(18)
1270 Y=RND(24)+5
1280 IF FNP(X,Y1)>32 THEN 1260
1290 IF X=X1 AND Y=Y1 THEN 1260
1300 PRINT TAB(X,Y);CHR$224;
1310 X(I)=X
1320 Y(I)=Y
1330 NEXT
1340 FOR I=0 TO EGGS
1350 X=RND(18)
1360 Y=RND(24)+5
1370 T(I)=RND(5)+5
1380 IF FNP(X,Y1)>32 THEN 1350
1390 IF X=X1 AND Y=Y1 THEN 1350
1400 M(I)=X:N(I)=Y
1410 PRINT TAB(X,Y);CHR$227
1420 NEXT
1430 EX=0
1440 COLOUR 7
1450 X=X1
1460 Y=Y1
1470 IF FNP(X,Y)>32 THEN 1450
1480 PRINT TAB(X,Y);CHR$225;
1490 PRINT TAB(1,2);"SPACE to start."
1500 REPEAT UNTIL GET$=" "
1510 PRINT TAB(1,2);" "
1520 ENDPROC
1530 DEF FNP(A,B)
1540 PRINT TAB(A,B);
1550 CALL DX
1560 ?%70
1570 DEF PROCsnuffit
1580 SOUND 0,17,6,3
1590 PRINT TAB(X(LX),Y(LX));" ";
1600 Y(LX)=-1
1610 LEFT=LEFT-1
1620 SC=SC+WZ*10
1630 IF LEFT=0 THEN PROCscreen
1640 ENDPROC
1650 DEF PROCend
1660 PRINT TAB(X-1,Y-1);"\\/"
1670 PRINT TAB(X-1,Y);"-X-"
1680 PRINT TAB(X-1,Y+1);"/\\/"
1690 *FX15,1
1700 SOUND 0,17,6,10
1710 SOUND 0,17,5,10
1720 FOR I=0 TO 3000:NEXT
1730 WZ=WZ-1
1740 TRAPS=TRAPS+1
1750 BLOKE=BLOKE-1
1760 IF BLOKE>0 THEN PROCscreen:ENDPROC
1770 VDU 22,7
1780 PRINT ""
1790 PROCCL("Your score = "+STR$SC)
1800 FOR I=0 TO 3000:NEXT
1810 CLS
1820 FL=-1
1830 FOR I=4 TO 3 STEP-1
1840 IF SCVAL$(HX+I*7) THEN FL=I
1850 NEXT
1860 IF FL>=0 THEN PROChighscore
1870 PRINT TAB(0,10)
1880 PROCCL("Press the"+CHR$136+"SPACE BAR"+
    CHR$137+"to play again.")
1890 REPEAT UNTIL GET$=" "
1900 RUN
1910 IF ERR=17 THEN RUN
1920 IF ERR=25 THEN GOTO ERL
1930 MODE7
1940 REPORT
1950 PRINT " in line ";ERL
1960 *FX15,1
1970 END
1980 DEF PROCCL(A$)
1990 PRINT CHR$141;A$
2000 PRINT CHR$141;A$
2010 ENDPROC
2020 DEF PROChighscore
2030 PRINT ""
2040 PROCCL("This is one of the highest")
2050 PROCCL("scores today. Please enter
    your name.")
2060 *FX15,1
2070 PROCCL("Max length 18 letters.")
2080 PRINT ""
2090 INPUT A$
2100 IF LEN A$>18 THEN CLS:GOTO 2030
2110 FOR I=3 TO FL STEP -1
2120 $(HX+I*7*7)=$(HX+I*7)
2130 $(NX+I*20+20)=$(NX+I*20)
2140 NEXT
2150 $(NX+FL*20)=A$
2160 SC$=STR$SC
2170 IF LEN SC$<6 THEN SC$="0"+SC$:GOTO 2170
2180 $(HX+FL*7)=SC$
2190 CLS
2200 ENDPROC
2210 DEF PROCsquashegg
2220 FL=-1
2230 FOR I=0 TO EGGS
2240 IF X=M(I) AND Y=N(I) THEN FL=1
2250 NEXT
2260 IF FL=-1 THEN ENDPROC
2270 SOUND 0,17,5,2
2280 T(FL)=-1
2290 SC=SC+WZ*25
2300 ENDPROC
2310 DEF PROCchange
2320 FL=-1
2330 FOR I=0 TO SNAKES
2340 IF Y(I)=-1 THEN FL=1
2350 NEXT
2360 IF FL=-1 THEN T(EX)=RND(5)+5:ENDPROC
2370 Y(FL)=N(EX)
2380 X(FL)=M(EX)
2390 SOUND 2,17,100,2
2400 LEFT=LEFT+1
2410 PRINT TAB(X(FL),Y(FL));CHR$224;
2420 ENDPROC

```

Snake Island  
by J Wilson



## Polynomial

on Vic20

This program for the unexpanded Vic could be very useful to students. It analy-

ses a polynomial function (quadratic equation) entered by the user. He is given the roots (if discriminant >0), the variations of the function, its derivative and the summit of the graph.

Lines  
1-100 Presentation

102 Enter function  
104 Reminds you of your choice  
110-257 Results  
1000 To enter F(x)  
2000 Calculate roots  
10000 Wait for key press  
20000 Print top of the screen

```

1 rem *****
2 rem # Polynomial #
4 rem # by #
6 rem # Cyril Aubry #
7 rem *****
8 rem # January 1983 #
9 rem *****
10 d=INT(3,10),tb(4)
40 Print" "
50 Printchr$(14)
100 n=2
102 gosub1000
103 t(3,4)=n:t(3,5)=P:t(1,6)=0
104 Print"Here are the coeff.
of the Polynomial."
105 for i=n+1 to i=P-1:Printt(1,i):next
110 gosub10010
111 e=0
112 gosub20000
113 if P=0 then Print"TP(x) < P(x) < P(x)"
115 if P=2 then Print"P(x)=P(x)"
116 if d<0 then Print"No roots !!":
Print"DELTA=";d:goto122
117 Print"Its roots are:"Print"
";n1:if r1=2 then Print"(double root)
":goto122
118 Print"and";r2
122 gosub10010:gosub20000:Print"Limits:"
124 if t(1,3)>0 then ch$="+":r$="+":goto126
125 ch$="-":r$="-":goto126
126 Print" ";r$;"inf->";ch$;"inf"
128 Print"Derivative of P:"
129 for x=2 to i=P-1:Printt(2,x):next
130 gosub10010
132 if m=1 then Print"That derivative has
a unique root"
200 gosub20000:Print"Properties of"
:Print"the Graph":
201 Print"The graph admits only one
summit."
202 x=-b/a:x=x/2:x=INT(100*x)/100
203 Print"S(x), a*x^2+b*x+c)"
200 gosub10010:gosub20000
207 end
1000:
1001 gosub 20000
1002 Print"Quadratic equation":Print" "
1003 for d=0 to 10
1004 Print"x";d;"term";:inputt(1,d+1)
1005 next d
1006 if t(1,3)=0 then goto1003
1007 gosub2000 gosub20000:t(3,6)=0
1011 t(1,6)=0
1012 if t(1,2)=0 then P=2
1014 for j=nto i=P-1:t(2,j)=(n+1-j)*t
(1,j):next
1015 if t(2,2)=0 then P=2
1016 t(2,6)=1:t(2,7)=-t(2,2)/t(2,1):t(3,4)
=-t(2,3)/t(2,1)
1032 return
2000 b=t(1,2):a=t(1,3):c=t(1,1)
2001 d=b*b-4*a*c:if d<0 then return
2003 r1=(-b-sqr(d))/(2*a):r2=(-b+sqr(d))
/(2*a)
2004 return
10010 Print" ";for x=1 to 8:Print" ";next
PrintsPc(17)""""
10011 Geta$:if a$="" then 10011
10012 return
20000 Print"Study of a Quadratic ";
:Print"equation"
20002 return

```

Polynomial  
by Cyril Aubry

## Multiply

on Dragon

This is written for the Dragon 32 and is an interesting example of a conver-

sational program.

You are given a choice of ten addition or multiplication questions. If you answer the sum correctly, you are rewarded with a suitable sound. If it is wrong, you are given a low note and the correct

answer is displayed.

Your score out of ten is shown at the end of the game, and if you are fortunate enough to get ten out of ten, you are rewarded with an interesting graphic display.

```

1 *****
2 *****DRAGMATHS*****
3 *****COPYRIGHT*****
4 *B & M SOFTWARE**
5 *****
10 CLS
20 T=0
30 Q=0
40 GOSUB100
50 CLS
60 PRINT@10,"DRAGMATHS":
70 A=INT(15)
80 B=INT(15)
90 T=T+1
100 PRINT@98,"WHAT IS:-";A;"TIMES:-";B;
110 INPUTC
120 SOUND150,1:FORN=1 TO 600:NEXT
130 IF C=(A*B) THEN Q=Q+1
140 IF Q=10 THEN 400
150 IF T=0 THEN 420
160 IF C=(A+B) THEN PRINT@331,"CORRECT":1:FORN=
10 TO 210:STEP 20:SOUNDN,1:NEXT:FORB=1 TO 2000:
NEXT:GOTO50
170 IF C<0 THEN PRINT@332,"WRONG":1:SOUND1,
15:PRINT@423,"THE ANSWER IS"(A+B):1:FORN=1
TO 2000:NEXT:GOTO50
180 PRINT@42,"DRAGMATHS":1:PRINT@101,"(C)
1983 B & M SOFTWARE":1:PRINT@170,
"INSTRUCTIONS":1:PRINT@224,"THE AIM IS TO
ANSWER THE 10 QUESTIONS AS THEY APPEAR
ON THE SCREEN."
190 PRINT@422,"HIT KEY TO CONTINUE":
200 PLAY"T803CL2FL4FAFA04L1CL203CL2FL4FAFA04C"
210 IF INKEY$="" THEN 210
220 SOUND150,1
230 CLS
240 PRINT@10,"DRAGMATHS":1:PRINT@132,"SELECT
YOUR PREFERENCE":1:PRINT@229,"M=-
MULTIPLICATION":1:PRINT@293,"A=- ADDITION":
250 IS=INKEY$:IF IS="" THEN 250 ELSE 1=ASC(IS)

```

```

260 IF1=77THENSOUND150,1:RETURN
270 IF1=65THENSOUND150,1:GOTO200
280 CLS
290 PRINT@10,""DRAGMATHS"";
300 C=RND(40)
310 D=RND(40)
320 E=RND(40)
330 T=T-1
340 PRINT@98,"WHAT IS-":C:"+":D:"+":E:
350 INPUT T
360 SOUND150,1:FORN=1TO600:NEXT
370 IFD=(C+D+E)THENDQ=1
380 IFD=10THEN480
390 IFT=0THEN420
400 IFD=(C+D+E)THENPRINT@331,"CORRECT":;
    FORN=10TO210STEP20:SOUNDN,1:NEXT:FORN=
    1TO2000:NEXT:GOTO280
410 IFB(1)(C+D+E)THENPRINT@332,"WRONG":;
    SOUND1,15:PRINT@423,"THE ANSWER IS"(C+D+E):
    :FORN=1TO2000:NEXT:GOTO280
420 CLS
430 PRINT@163,"YOUR SCORE IS"ID1"OUT OF 10":
440 PRINT@327,"ANOTHER GO (Y/N)?":
450 Z=INKEY$:IFZ$=""THEN450ELSEZ=ASC(Z)
460 IFZ=89THEN10
470 IFZ=78THEN670

```

```

480 FORK=1TO8
490 A=RND(8)
500 PRINT@167,"CONGRATULATIONS":PRINT@226,
    "YOUR SCORE IS 10 OUT OF 10":
510 FORN=1TO250:NEXT
520 CLS@SOUND200,1
530 NEXT
540 POKE@HFFD7,0
550 PHODEA,1:PCLS:SCREEN1,1
560 FORX=0TO255STEP2
570 LINE(128,98)-(0,X),PSET
580 LINE(128,98)-(X,0),PSET
590 LINE(128,98)-(255,X),PSET
600 LINE(128,98)-(X,255),PSET
610 SOUND200,1
620 NEXT
630 POKE@HFFD6,0
640 FORN=1TO1000
650 NEXTN
660 GOTO420
670 CLS
680 PRINT@166,"THANKS FOR PLAYING":
    :PRINT@235,"GOODBYE":
690 GOTO690

```

Multiply  
by Brian and Martin Bond

## Apples

### on Spectrum

The basic object of the game is to catch apples thrown over the orchard wall by Sid Spectrum. Every 15 apples caught will cause Sid to place a plank under you, thus giving you less time to catch the apples.

#### Variable

A	Dummy	20	Set up UDGs
I	Dummy	30-50	Instructions
Demo	Demonstration flag	60-220	Set up and start
CA	Apples caught	230-340	Main game loop
DR	Apples dropped	350	Apple caught
X,Y	Clive's co-ordinates	360-390	Plank
Y1	Dummy	400-410	Apple dropped
AX,AY	Apple's co-ordinates	420-520	Game end
Lines		530-650	Graphics
10	Set up colours	660	Save

```

100 PAPER 0: INK 7: POKE 23609,
30: POKE 23582,1: POKE 23650,0:
FLASH 0: BRIGHT 0: OVER 0: INVER
50: CLS: BORDER 0: INPUT ""
E USR "A+B: NEXT A
30 CLS: PRINT PAPER 3: "Cup
d Clive and Sid Spectrum""have
a great lust for apples and""
are always raising the local""
orchard.""A new wall has been
built""around the orchard rec
ently, but""a fast growing ivy
has grown up""the wall.....
40 PRINT ""Key 1 moves Clive
left""Key 0 moves Clive right
50 PRINT @0:AT 1,0: PAPER 7: I
NK 2: "PRESS ANY KEY TO CONTIN
UE"
60 LET DEMO=0
70 FOR A=1 TO 3000: IF INKEY$<
" " THEN GO TO 90
80 NEXT A: LET DEMO=1
90 CLS: PRINT PAPER 5,,","
"FOR A=0 TO 15: PRINT INK 2:
PAPER 7: "
100 IF DEMO THEN PRINT AT 1,12:
INK 0: PAPER 5: FLASH 1: DEMO
110 INK 4: FOR A=6 TO 135: PLOT
0,A: DRAW AND+16+16,0: PLOT 255
,A: DRAW -RND+16-16,0: BEEP .001
A+.5: NEXT A: INK 7
120 PRINT AT 19,0: PAPER 4: INK
0: "AT 19,0: PAPER 6: PAPER 2:AT
16,15: "AT 19,15: INK 7: "
AT 20,15: "
130 PRINT @0:AT 0,0: PAPER 1: "H
EY SID, WHY DON'T YOU CLIMB
OVER THE ORCHARD WALL?": BEEP .5
-10: BEEP .2,-5: BEEP .4,-7: BE
EP .4,-10: BEEP 1.6,-4
140 PRINT @0:AT 0,0: PAPER 1: "O

```

```

K. YOU USE THE BASKET TO CATCH T
HE APPLES AS I THROW THEM OVER "
: BEEP .6,-3: BEEP .6,-5: BEEP .
6,-7: BEEP .6,-8: BEEP 1.2,-10
150 INPUT "FOR A=15 TO 5 STE
P -1: PRINT AT A,0: PAPER 4: INK
0: "BEEP .05,30-A
: BEEP .05,-A: NEXT A
160 PRINT AT 4,0: PAPER 5: INK
0: "PAPER 4: "BEEP
.05,20: BEEP .05,-4: PRINT AT 3,
0: PAPER 5: INK 0: "PAP
ER 4: "BEEP .05,27: BEEP .05
-3
170 PRINT AT 3,0: PAPER 5: "
INK 0: "BEEP .05,26: BEEP .
05,-4: PRINT AT 4,0: PAPER 5: "
180 FOR A=5 TO 10: BEEP .05,30-
A: BEEP .05,-A: NEXT A
190 IF DEMO THEN PRINT AT 3,5:
PAPER 5: INK 0: "PRESS ANY KEY TO
PLAY"
200 LET CA=0: LET DR=0: LET X=1
0: LET Y=15
210 PRINT @0: PAPER 1: "G E T
R E A D Y "FOR A=0 TO
300: NEXT A: INPUT ""
220 LET AX=5: LET AY=INT (RND+2
2)+5: PRINT AT AX,AY: PAPER 7: I
NK 4: "
230 LET Y1=Y
240 IF DEMO THEN LET Y=Y+(AY-Y)
-(AY-Y): GO TO 270
250 IF INKEY$="1" AND Y>5 THEN
LET Y=Y-1
260 IF INKEY$="0" AND Y<25 THEN
LET Y=Y+1
270 IF Y1<>Y THEN PRINT AT X,Y1
: PAPER 7: INK 2: "AT X+1,Y1:
"AT X+2,Y1:
280 PRINT AT X,Y: PAPER 2: INK
6: "AT X+1,Y: INK 7: "AT X
+2,Y:
290 IF Y1=Y THEN FOR A=0 TO 5:
NEXT A
300 PRINT AT AX,AY: PAPER 7: IN
K 2: "LET AX=AX+1
310 IF ATTR (AX,AY)=32 THEN GO
TO 350

```

continued on page 33





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trum Computer Group Shops, The Buffer Mic-  
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# OPEN FORUM

```

320 IF DEMO AND INKEY$( > "" THEN
GO TO 30
330 IF AX>X+2 THEN GO TO 400
340 PRINT AT AX,AY: PAPER 7: IN
K 4: BEEP .01,21-AX: GO TO 2
30
350 LET CA=CA+1: PRINT #0,AT 0,
0: PAPER 1:"WE'VE CAUGHT "CA":
SO FAR"
360 GREAT AIN'T IT !!!
BEEP .5,20: IF CA/15<INT ICA
/15 THEN GO TO 220
360 PRINT #0,AT 0,0: PAPER 1:"H
ANG ON A MINUTE, I'VE FOUND A
PLANK TO "HELP" YOU !!!
370 PRINT AT X,Y: PAPER 7: INK
2: AT X+1,Y: AT X+2,Y:
AT X+1,5: PAPER 2: INK 7: INU
ELSE 1:
AT X+2,10:
380 FOR A=0 TO 60: BEEP .01,A:
NEXT A
390 LET X=X-2: GO TO 320
400 LET DR=DR+1: PRINT #0,AT 0,
0: PAPER 1:"THAT'S "OR" YOU'VE
DROPPED" SO FAR... I'LL SOON GE
T ANGRY !!! BEEP 1,30
410 IF DR<15 THEN GO TO 220
420 PRINT #0,AT 0,0: PAPER 1:"I
'M NOT PLAYING ANY MORE !!!
430 PRINT AT 1,12: PAPER 1:
AT 3,5
440 FOR A=15 TO 5 STEP -1: BEEP
.05,30-A: BEEP .05,-A: NEXT A
450 PRINT AT 4,0: PAPER 5: INK
0: BEEP .05,26: BEEP .05,-4
PRINT AT 3,0: PAPER 5: INK 0:
BEEP .05,27: BEEP .05
-5
460 PRINT AT 3,0: PAPER 5:
INK 0: PAPER 4: INK 0:
BEEP .05,26: BEEP .05,-4: PAIR
T AT 4,0: PAPER 5: PAPER 4:
INK 0: BEEP .05,25: B

```

```

EEP .05,-5
470 FOR A=5 TO 18: PRINT AT A,0
PAPER 4: INK 0:
BEEP .05,29-A: BEEP .05,-A-1: N
EXT A
480 IF DEMO THEN GO TO 30
490 CLS: IF CA>PEEK USR "U" TH
EN POKE USR "U",CA
500 PRINT "SCORE:
CA:"HI-SCORE:
USR "U"
510 PRINT #0,AT 1,0: PAPER 1: I
NK 7: "PRESS ANY KEY FOR ANOTHER
GAME"
520 GO TO 70
530 DATA 127,127,127,0,247,247,
247,0
540 DATA 0,127,127,127,63,63,63,
176,51,55,55,55,51,27,31,15
550 DATA 3,3,3,7,14,26,55,55
560 DATA 0,254,254,254,252,252,
236,13,204,236,236,236,204,216,2
48,240
570 DATA 192,192,192,324,112,56
,28,28
580 DATA 179,183,183,183,51,27,
31,239
590 DATA 131,131,131,247,14,28,
56,187
600 DATA 204,236,236,237,204,21
6,248,247
610 DATA 192,192,192,239,112,56
,28,231
620 DATA 6,6,116,255,223,223,12
6,60
630 DATA 0,0,0,247,247,247,0
640 DATA 112,112,112,0,7,7,7,0
650 DATA 15,15,15,0,240,240,240
,0
660 CLEAR: SAVE "SCRUMPING" LI
NE 1: VERIFY: STOP

```

Apples  
by T Lewis

## The Tube on Lynx

This program uses an unusual procedure to draw circles to create its effect.

The circle procedure can be 'lifted' out quite easily and the x and y co-ordinates are all you will need to add.

```

1 PROC CIRCLE
2 YDU 4,21,25
3 PROC BRAIN
4 FOR X = 0 TO 190 STEP 10
5 INK X + 1
6 FOR A = 0 TO 360
7 PLOT 4,30 + (M(A) * X),30 + (N(A) * X)
8 PLOT 4,30 + (M(A) * (190 - X)),30 + (N(A) * X)
9 NEXT A
10 NEXT X
11 PROC DUNNIT
12 G = GETN
13 END
14 DEFPROC CIRCLE
15 R = 25,1 = 25
16 DIM M(360)
17 DIM N(360)
18 CLS
19 VDU 24
20 PRINT IN 40,20: "I'M THINKING"
21 PROC BRAIN
22 FOR A = 0 TO 360
23 E = A * PI/180
24 C = R * COS (E)
25 S = R * SIN (E)
26 M(A) = C
27 N(A) = S
28 NEXT A
29 ENDPROC
30 DEFPROC BRAIN
31 FOR F = 0 TO 100
32 BEEP RAND(300) + 1,3,66
33 NEXT F
34 ENDPROC
35 DEFPROC DUNNIT
36 FOR J = 0 TO 1
37 FOR S = 100 TO 6 STEP -10
38 FOR U = 0 TO 190 STEP 10
39 BEEP S - S,10,63
40 NEXT U
41 NEXT S
42 NEXT J
43 ENDPROC

```

## Cruising & Blind Alley

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be won  
Cruising

First there was *Space Invaders*, then there was *Pacman* - now there is *Cruising*. This all-action, machine code, arcade type game, will test your powers of co-ordination to the limit. Never before has a game asked you to think so quickly, or move so fast.

Achieving a high score on *Cruising* takes considerable skill, and not a little patience.

*Popular Computing Weekly* is offering £10 each month to the player with the highest score on *Cruising*. All you have to do to enter this month's competition is send a print-out of your highest score, together with your name and address, to:

*Popular Computing Weekly*  
*Cruising*  
Hobhouse Court  
19 Whitcomb Street  
London WC2 7HF

Each month we will publish the name of the winner and the new *Cruising* high score. Are you good enough to accept the *Cruising* challenge?

The highest score sent in so far this month is 9968 from Carl Doran of Skidby Mill, N. Humberside. Entries for this month's competition close on May 31.

### Notes

- Each entry must consist of a ZX printout and your name and address.

Can you beat  
the new  
high score?

- Closing date for this month's *Cruising* challenge entries is May 31.
- The highest score each month will receive £10.
- High scores cannot be transferred from one month to another.
- The judges' decision is final.
- No employees of *Sunshine Publications Ltd*, or their families, will be eligible to enter.

### Blind Alley

*Blind Alley* is a game of strategy. In order to win you must outwit the computer, using your craft to fence in and finally destroy the enemy pursuit vehicles. But, watch out for the solid trail left by your opponents - one touch is fatal!

Each month *Popular Computing Weekly* is giving away £10 to the player with the highest score on *Blind Alley*. To enter this month's competition simply send in a copy of your score and the code at the bottom of the score table, together with your name and address to:

*Popular Computing Weekly*  
*Blind Alley*  
Hobhouse Court  
19 Whitcomb Street  
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The highest score sent in so far is 32465 from Jonathan Farmer of 34 Cramond Park, Edinburgh. Entries for this month's competition close on May 31.



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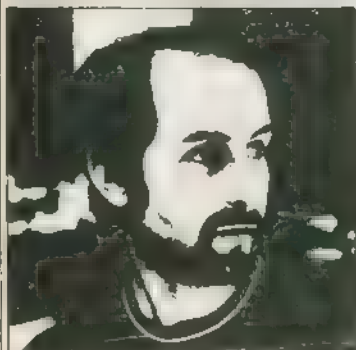
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## Tony Bridge's Adventure Corner



### A colossal temptation!

Some weeks ago I was talking about the midnight programmers, and their obsession with after-hours adventures. To illustrate what this original adventure must have felt like to play, I then started up a game on a DEC PDP/11, inviting readers to send me any ideas they might have on how to go about it.

Over 295 of you thought that I was actually stuck and in need of *Help*, while two of you got the idea and sent highly colourful solutions to the snake problem.

However, I was amazed to find that so many of you had either played the original

or played one of several versions for home microcomputers. I have seen the ads claiming that this or that program is "based on the Crowther original" or "like the mainframe adventure", but I was happily surprised to learn from your letters how alike these programs actually are to the one I am currently playing.

Michael Austin, in Level 9, has very kindly sent me a tape of his *Colossal Adventure* which is one of those games mentioned in your letters. The adventure follows, in the opening phase anyway, the Crowther original — but it contains many more rooms in the closing stages. Quite frankly, I think it is a minor miracle of programming. The original is rather long at the beginning — it can take some time before the intrepid adventurer finally stumbles upon the entrance to the cave. Level 9's program allows the player to get straight into the action.

Level 9 also provided me with a crib sheet (sealed) in case I should need help in solving the adventure — I am currently sitting on my desk tempting me to open it, but I have resisted so far!

Michael tells me that Level 9 has several other programs that evolve from *Colossal Adventure*; the scenario I am one, for example, involving the countryside glimpsed beyond the forest in *Colossal Adventure*. I shall bring you news of these as I receive them, but I can tell you that anybody who likes a good, traditional adventure will certainly find good value with Level 9's programs.

Back to your letters, Hugh Owen-Jones is stuck, like many others, in one of Artie's adventures. He is trying to get past the tank in *Espionage Island* — his friend knows, but won't let him in on the secret. Well, here's a clue. Just type the code using the *Help* program that I gave last week — in this case, I've given the clue to you in three parts, it entails a very long wait for the program to sort out the whole thing in one go!

1. "shite+lw+cmlshot,wglosh
2. "ie+ai+ng.npsoc.thstir iot"
3. "scwhaser towth+lh+c ois  
tanlth+etsog no,nh

A Buchan, of Aberdeenshire, is also playing *Espionage Island* and is going round in circles. Try decoding this I hope it may put you on the right track.

"bwetogneya+smtdylor

Finally, from the same source, A Buchan, comes our signing-off message: *Bribe a bunyip today!*

This series of articles is designed for novice and experienced Adventurers alike. Each week Tony Bridge will be looking at different Adventures and advising you on some of the problems and pitfalls you can expect to encounter. So if you have an Adventure you want reviewed, or if you are stuck in an Adventure and cannot progress any further, write to: Tony Bridge, Adventure Corner, *Popular Computing Weekly*, Hubhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2 7HF.

## Adventure Competition

Write an adventure game and win a Commodore 64!

*Popular Computing Weekly* is offering a star prize of a Commodore 64 for the best adventure game written for any home micro — PLUS — a special prize of a Vic20 for the best essay on an adventure theme — PLUS — for the next 10 runners-up, two Commodore adventure games.

Each week during May, *Popular Computing Weekly* will publish a coupon — simply cut out any three and send them in with your entry.

The best adventure games are ideally a combination of action and logical riddles. For instance, to open a door, the player should not merely have to find the magic word, but have to solve a puzzle in order to progress to the next location. Good graphics obviously enhance a program — and we'll be looking for a game that makes imaginative use of graphics, although that does not mean that a text-only program will be eliminated.

Other things we will be looking for are the surprise twists that make a program worth coming back to again and again.

And remember, don't make your game too difficult in the early stages — adventuring novices should have a chance to get some way into the game before getting stuck!

For those of you submitting scenarios with your program, think of it as a guide line for a programmer. Draw a map showing location, objects and other important details of your

adventure, and compile a dictionary of key words that your program will accept.

If you do not want to write a full-blown adventure game, you can still enter the competition by writing an essay (up to 2,000 words) on an original adventure theme. A Vic20 will be awarded to the essay which describes the most original and interesting adventure game.

The competition will be judged by Tony Bridge and *Popular Computing Weekly* editor Brendon Gore.

#### PRIZES

1. Commodore 64
2. Vic20
3. Two Commodore adventure games of your choice for 10 runners-up

#### HOW TO ENTER

All you have to do to enter this competition is collect the coupons from three issues of the magazine and send them together with your entry, stating which version you submitted to:

*Popular Computing Weekly*  
Adventure Competition  
Hubhouse Court  
19 Whitcomb Street  
London WC2 7HF

#### RULES

1. Each entry must consist of your adventure, or essay, together with three coupons, and your name and address.
2. Deadline date for the Adventure Competition is 30 June 1983.
3. The judges' decision is final.
4. No employees of Sunshine Publications Ltd or their families will be eligible to enter.

## Adventure Competition

(2)

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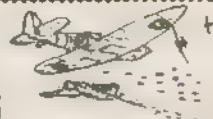
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## PURPOSE BUILT

Mr V J Baker of Shunters Way, Doncaster, writes:

**Q** I have a BBC computer and I have for some time been considering getting a desk or unit especially for it, so that I do not have to set it up each time I want to use it. I have been told that purpose-built furniture is available for the BBC machines, but have not seen any details. Can you help?

**A** I do not know of any especially designed for the BBC, but I know of two companies that make a computer desk-type unit. They are: OFCO, 65 Tredegar Street, London E3 5AE, and Micro Aids, 2 Boston Close, Culcheth, Warrington WA3 1BR.

## EXTRA MEMORY

Francis McGregor of Blaydon, Newcastle-on-Tyne, writes:

**Q** I have an Atari 400, and I am getting on with it very well. But I have seen a lot recently about the language Forth and the Jupiter Ace microcomputer and think that it is very interesting.

Do you think Forth is worth learning for the Atari computers, and will I need to get any extra memory for it? Also, is it available on cassette, as I only have a cassette drive with my computer? I know there are cassette versions for other computers.

**A** I am afraid that you are not in luck. The only Forth I know of is by Maplin in Rayleigh, Essex. Unfortunately, it is a disc version and needs 24K. This means you would need £350 of extra equipment before you even buy the Forth itself — and the Forth disc costs £63. Just to learn Forth, it would be a lot

cheaper to buy an Ace for less than £100. On the other hand, if you plan to develop your Atari system in any case, and were thinking of buying a disc drive, then it could be worth getting.

As for whether it is worth learning Forth, that depends on how you want to develop your computing. Certainly I would recommend it as a second language. It is generally faster and shorter, and indeed many arcade games are now in Forth. It is quite different from Basic and takes quite a bit of getting used to.

And there are other languages also becoming popular such as C or Logo. I understand that Atari will be doing a version of Logo for their machine, but I do not know when it will become available. In the end it is up to you — it is your money!

## A GROWING CONFLICT

Mr I Mackenzie from Huddersworth Technical College, Soho Road, Birmingham, writes:

**Q** Good to see that *Popular Computing Weekly* is bang up to date; I refer to 'Meteor' for the Ace. Basic is not the only language that is widely available. Forth seems to be just what is needed for interfacing high-level languages to assembler code. At the college we are using two of them for control and data conversion applications.

But can you help me concerning the expansion port at the back. It just does not look like the plan in the manual. Is it just a case of the 'viewed from the front' problem, or is it more serious. I dare not take the top off, since I do not think that it would stay together afterwards.

**A** Here we have some early exchanges in what I think will be a growing conflict, namely Forth versus Basic; I am glad that you recognise that Forth is better for some applications, though not necessarily all.

The plan at the bottom of page 152 is a 'looking down on' view. The two top and two bottom connections beyond the slot are not used. As for taking the top off, if you are not happy about doing this, then don't. The Ace

is constructed in a similar way to the ZX80 — you can open it provided you do not interfere with the poppers underneath.

## THE RIGHT DIRECTION

David Muir of Ailsa Road, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, writes:

**Q** Could you please tell me how I can Save and Load data in and from my BBC computer?

The problem is that I am trying to write a program that will test the user's knowledge of French — I want to input the French and the English equivalent in the program and, through a menu, Save or Load a different selection of words or phrases.

I have tried a number of ways to do this based on what I have found in books and magazines, but to no avail. Can you guide me in the right direction?

**A** You will need to use the Open In and Open Out commands to create a file on the cassette or disc. But before you can do that, the information that you want to save needs to be put into a string. So a line is needed to the effect: Print AS # Channel then Input AS # Channel.

The string is then stored in space created by the command Open Out and the command Open In will return the string value to the display.

## UNABLE TO SAVE

Mr M Jones of Broad Park Road, Bere Alston, Yelverton, Devon, writes:

**Q** What welcome news the progress of the Sinclair Microdrive! Time scale notwithstanding, I for one will consider its advent as a new dimension.

The reason for this is that so far I have been totally unable to Save even the simplest two-line program on cassette, despite trying three machines. (In each case after verbal assurances that they would operate with the Spectrum.) All I get is

'Tape Loading Error'.

It would appear that there is a large gap in the market for compatible recorders (most dealers say they cannot get their hands on them). The possibility of a fault with my Spectrum has finally occurred to me. Have you, or anyone else, any experience of this with either recorders or the micro.

**A** When I read the first part of your letter I assumed that it was yet another ZX81 Load/Save problem. I must admit when the culprit turned out to be the Spectrum I was surprised. The Spectrum ironed out most of the Load/Save bugs of its brother, and I think this is the first question like this that I have had. Have you a shop near you that sells Spectrums and has demonstration machines Running? If so, might do to ask if you could try and Load or Save using their cassette player. It might well establish which is at fault, the micro or the cassette.

As for a compatible recorder, the Thorn model marketed by Data-asset is the nearest to a standard. It was adapted for the ZX81, and there are several people who will say that if it Loads a ZX81, it will Load anything. In this case I would suggest you try one of these.

## NO GUARANTEE

Mr M Churt of St Mawes, Truro, Cornwall, writes:

**Q** In your 3 March issue you stated that it was possible to expand a 16K Spectrum to a 48K model, by using chips from an independent supplier. Would this 'User' conversion nullify the Sinclair guarantee?

**A** Yes, is the simple answer. You void the guarantee simply by taking the top off, and if they sold you a 16K Spectrum, which is returned with chips in sockets which should be empty, then obviously they are within their rights to refuse to deal with it under the guarantee.

Is there anything about your computer you don't understand, and which everyone else seems to take for granted? Whatever your problem Peek It to Ian Beardsmore and every week he will Poke back as many answers as he can. The address is **Peek & Poke**, PCW, Hobhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2 7HF.



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interface, £70 Tel: Minster 873862  
after 6 pm

**SPECTRUM SOFTWARE** for sale, Andros  
Attack 8K, Traxx 8K and Millipede  
unexpanded. All £5 each Tel: Roch-  
dale 353719 after 5 pm

**ZX81 16K** + £35 ■ software inc flight  
simulation for £55 Tel: 624 4625 after 5  
pm

## WANTED

### GAMES WANTED FOR SPECTRUM 16/48K

We wish to purchase original Basic  
or machine code programs for  
cash

Absolutely anything considered  
Contact

### ZAP COMPUTING

7 Eldon Road  
Reading, Berks  
or Tel: Reading 479097

**WE ARE** currently looking for original,  
preferably debugged games and utility  
programs. Anything from 16K to 24K is  
acceptable. If you have any programs  
that meet these criteria write to: Bamby  
Software, Lutterworth, Isle of Harris,  
PA83 3TX.

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We are a London based Computer Software  
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If you have written or are in the process of  
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01-338 1051 (ext 57), or write to 48 Fitzroy  
Street, London W1. For attention, Jane  
Conway.

**NEW COMPANY** seeks quality software for Spectrum/BBC microcomputers; to market and distribute on a nationwide basis. Very high returns possible. Send tapes for evaluation to: Lophole Software, Arkwright House, Alexandra Road, Llandrindod Wells, Powys.

## GAMES WANTED FOR SPECTRUM 16/48K

We wish to purchase original basic or machine code programs for cash. Absolutely anything considered. Contact:

**ZAP COMPUTING**  
7 ELDON ROAD, READING  
or Telephone Reading 479067

**SWAP** my Vic machine code monitor, for programmers ask: Tel: 04216-2070  
**WANTED URGENTLY**, BBC Model A, software not essential. Phone Haverhill (0440) 703034

## Computer Swap 01-930 3266

Free readers entries to buy or sell a computer.  
Ring 01-930 3266 and give us the details.

## Spectrum for sale

**16K SPECTRUM** with software, including Hungry Horace, Meteor Storm, Space Raiders, a few others, worth over £50. Tel: Brackley 703342

**48K SPECTRUM** + £80 of software, £150 Tel: 051-428 8281

**16K SPECTRUM**, 3 months old, with cassette recorder and £40-worth software in mint condition, £150. Tel: Shere (Surrey) 2939 after 5 pm

**SPECTRUM FOR SALE 16K**, lots of software, good condition. Crawley 35849 evenings.

**16K SPECTRUM** as new with several books and software cassettes, £100 ono. Tel: Medway 4151 ext 264 evenings

**ZX SPECTRUM 16K ISSUE 2** plus Fuller sound box + 3 books - £40 of software, all for £99.95. Tel: Kingham 662

**48K SPECTRUM** with software, £110 Tel: 01-300 9078 after 6 pm.

**48K SPECTRUM**, hardly used, in custom consult case, over £40 of software, £145. Tel: Hitchin 731249.

**48K SPECTRUM**, mint condition, £150 ono. Tel: 0482 781517 (after 6 pm but not Tuesday or Wednesday, ask for Clive).

**16K SPECTRUM**, suitable for upgrading + NEC course and books, £75. Tel: 01-451 3093.

**SPECTRUM 16K**, all leads + manuals 2 games, £105 ono. Tel: 01-986 0989.

**SPECTRUM 16K**, still with 12 months guarantee, fully boxed with lots of software - Avenger, Crusader etc worth £150, sell for £110. Tel: (0223) 860626

**SPECTRUM SOFTWARE** - Horse Racing, with variable odds, - when way bets - Bandit, with full hold nudge, gamble - payout feature, each just fills 16K both for £2.95. Tel: 0684 63227

**48K SPECTRUM**, £300 of software - DK Tronics light pen - magazines and book, £200 Tel: York 54392

**ZX SPECTRUM 16K**, £50 of software + book, £85 Luton 0582 37854 evenings

## ZX81s for sale

**16K ZX81** including DK Tronics keyboard and graphics Rom, all leads included. Also with manuals, £100-worth software including Defender and Galaxions, worth £250 sell for £130 ono. Tel: Staines 50522 after 4 pm

**ZX81, 32K RAM**, all leads, manuals and magazines, £75 ono. Tel: Greenhithe 843715

**ZX81, 16K** with DK Tronics keyboard + PSS Q save, £150 of software including Defender, Flight Simulation etc, lots of books, £130 ono. Tel: 01-748 0701

**ZX81 WITH 16K RAM**, programs and magazines, four months old, £65 ono. Tel: Tunbridge Wells 21137 after 5 pm

**16K ZX81** with software, 12 month guarantee, £50 Tel: 01-500 7918 evenings after 6 pm

**ZX81, 16K**, £100 of software etc + extras worth over £160, will sell for £85 ono. Tel: Southend (0702) 617608.

**16K ZX81** with DK Tronics keyboard printer + extra paper, AGS joystick converter + one joystick, hi-res graphics, £50 worth of software plus magazines, £150 Tel: 01-883 3853

**ZX81, 16K** Ram expansion pack + 2 tapes: Flight Simulation and various on other, £65-70, only 4 weeks old, in original box. Tel: Harlow 28609

**RAMPACK**, 16K Memotech, all ZX computing, £20 software, 15 issues PCW, most Sinclair users, all Sinclair programs, £30 worth of books, worth over £110, any offers? Ian, 01-446 2863 (after 5 pm)

**ZX81 + 16K**, including manuals boxed, + Flight Simulator, £40 Tel: Brehmwood 219128

**ZX81, 1K**, unwanted prize, 12 month guarantee, £30 Tel: Southend 552484

**16K ZX81**, over £30 software, 3D monsters, Catacombs, Fantasy games, £75 Tel: 061-6205643

**ZX81, 16K**, File 60 keyboard, keyboard bleeder, Save, loading aid + over £80 software, £90 Tel: 01-540 7860 (anytime after 5 pm)

**16K ZX81**, good condition, all leads and manuals (apes magazines, etc, £55 ono. Tel: 0704 36385 (evenings)

**ZX81, 16K Ram**, 8 months guarantee games include Trader, Chess, £70 ono. Tel: 031-337 2223 (anytime)

## Dragons for sale

**DRAGON 32 TAPES** all swap, Staffman, Escape, Flight Simulation 01-402 9787 (6 pm)

**DRAGON 32**, 6 months old, hardly used, boxed and with full documentation, £140 Tel: Tahme (Berks) 4776

**DRAGON 32**, as new + joysticks - over £100 of software including Arcade games, Fourth Language and Assembler + books and machine code, £230 Tel: 051-3483 (after 6 pm)

**FOR VIC20**, stack 40 80 column card £50, stack Vic kit 1, Vic 20 + 3K Ram £35. All one month old. Tel: 051-430905

**DRAGON 32** - cassette - joystick, tapes + cartridges, £150 Tel: 01-761 3946

## Tandys for sale

**TRS 80**, Model 1, Level 2, 4K, £95 Tel: 0457 63228

**TANDY COLOUR COMPUTER?** 5 games written in Basic for £5, includes Lander and Motorway Tel: Pelsall 691618. Also information desperately needed on machine code language and or assembly language for Tandy Colour, 16K

**TRS 80**, Model 1, Level 2, 16K, CPU + VDU + cassette + software £275, 32K expansion interface £175, complete 48K system for £400 Tel: 021-7482352

**TANDY TRS 80**, Model 1, Level 2, 16K manual + Tandy cassette recorder + VDU screen, £160 ono. Tel: Maidenhead 27653

## Commodores for sale

**VIC20 + 16K + C2N** cassette deck, super expander, 6 cartridges, games, 4 tape games, 2 maths revision 1 + joystick, £355 ono. Tel: 0935 823537

**VIC20 + 3** - 16K program revision guide, Vic Revealed, Sargon Chess, £155. Tel: Tonbridge (0732) 361920

**VIC20 + 3K** super expander + machine code monitor, Adventure and Real Race, Star Battle + Road Race + 31 cassette games + magazines, £300 ono. Tel: Bagshot 74424

**VIC20**, cassette deck, Star Battle cartridge, joystick, dust cover, other software. Call: 0742 54430, £185 ono

**VIC20 + high-res** graphics cartridge, tape recorder, joystick manual and games cassettes, for £150 Tel: Brighton 37652

**VIC20** software to sell including all popular name, Aurig, Rabbit Tel: details 01-387 8751, after 6 pm

**VIC20** with cassette player, super expander, 3K Ram pack, joysticks, books, £60 of software, very good condition, £175 Tel: Portsmouth 753266

**VIC20** Voodoo Castle, £20 ono. Tel: Leeds (0532) 742485

**COMMODORE PET SYSTEM** complete, £475, including Series 2001, 32K new Roms, cassette drive - Epson TX80 printer with IEEE interface, all highly used + various books and programs. Tel: Howard - home 01-937 2706, office 353 1545

**VIC20 + tape deck**, super expander introduction Basic 1 and 2 + games, £200 ono. Tel: 01-310 8109, after 11 pm

## Ataris for sale

**ATARI VCS**, as new, 5 cartridges + joysticks, £120 ono. Tel: Barry, 01-648 0530

**ATARI VCS** + PacMan + Video Chess, mint condition, boxed, as new £80. Tel: 01-348 5668 after 6 pm

**ATARI VCS**, 7 of the best cassettes £150 or part-exchange for ZX printer Tel: 01-394 0458

**ATARI 400/800 CARTRIDGES**, Star Raiders, Missile Command, Asteroids, boxed, £55. Protector (original cassette), £12 Tel: 0702 201637

**ATARI VCS**, 4 months old, all usual accessories - 2 cartridges, £50 Tel: 01-207 2788

**STAR RAIDERS** Asteroids, keyboards, video touch pad, paddles, joysticks and Combat, first offer £70 secures Tel: Kilmanning 52667

**ATARI VCS** - cartridges including Space Invaders and Missile Command Paddles, joysticks, in good condition, £90 ono. Tel: Terry 633 5407 before 4.30 pm, 223 0397 after 5 pm

**SWAP BRAND** New Alan 800 Star Raiders, Centipede, Space Invaders, 16K memory module, point master joystick, cost £170 - for Maytel Intellivision, St Austell 0726 63501

**ATARI VCS**, as new, £70 Cartridges £13 each, sold separate or together, Tel: 01-648 0530

**ATARI 400, 16K**, basic, recorder two joysticks and headset and £370 of software, £375. Tel: Ilford 01-554 1640

## Acorns for sale

**BBC A 32K + VIA** chip, Planetoids cassettes, leads and manuals, £250 ono. Tel: 0902 28568 after 6 pm

**BBC MODEL 1 32K**, 1 month old, still in original packing with guarantee, unclose manual, cassette recorder and leads, some software and magazines, £440 Tel: 061-740 3858

**BBC MODEL A** with extra 16K, equals 32K including 12in black and white monitor and cassette recorder, £300 Tel: 352 4577

**BBC MODEL B**, 3 months old + joystick + 2 cartridges, £370 Tel: 01-534 5717 after 7 pm

**BBC MODEL A**, + 1.2 OS + 32K, printer, user, analog bus upgrades + over £100 quality software. Will deliver within reason, £350 Tel: 01-337 8163

## For sale

**DEMON ATTACK** for Atari VCS to exchange for Parker Star Wars cartridge. Tel: 04862 70318

**CHESS PARTNER 2000** computer, in original packing, manual 8 levels of play, LED display, touch sensitive keyboard - transformer, £53 ono. Tel: 0698 62119

**SWAP** 14in 8 w portable telly for ZX81 with 16K Tel: 01-641 1877 after 6 pm

**TI 99**, 4 months old, cassette, interface cable, 8 game cartridges, all books manuals, dust-proof cover + cassettes, £120 Tel: 061-338 2350, after 6 pm

**KEMPSTON** joystick for Spectrum, excellent condition, will swap for any Spectrum keyboard or sell for £20 Tel: 0203 346848 anytime

**VIC20**, original cassettes, including Night Circular, Lazer Zone, Grid Runner and many, many others. Between £3-£4 each. Tel: 574 4122

**HEATH ET 3400** micro processor trainer - manuals, £75. E Prom programmer for Commodore PET - 2716, 2532, 2732 - £50. Pet - speed compiler for CBM 4032 4040, only £100. Tel: Hereford 273047

**HANIER CB X** Standist Aerial, SWR meter and back track, swap for Dragon 32 Tel: St Helens 55128

**ATARI 400** Eastern Front, 1941 + cash for cartridge or will swap for another cassette Tel: 01-989 8138, evenings

**VIC CARTRIDGES**, Road Race + Meteor Run, £10 each Vic cassettes, leader £10, Sub-space Sinker, Arrow of Death, Andas Attack, £7 each Star Trek Tel: 01-788 8272 after 6 pm

**JELLY MONSTERS ADVENTURE** CARTRIDGE for Commodore Vic20, £16. Tel: Stalford 663166

## Wanted

**DRAGON 32** required, £125 awaits each sound machine: decision by return post. I pay any collection delivery charges. Details to A. Ellis, 22 Turners Road, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 5NX

**WANTED: AFROM EXP BOARD** for Vic20 as exchange for stack 4-slot board + cash Tel: Litchfield 53344 anytime

**WANTED BBC MICRO COMPUTER** Model A or B, must be in good condition. Tel: Havant 473059

**VIC20 GOLF CARTRIDGE** wanted for cash. Tel: Johnstone (Renfrewshire) 21586

**WANTED 48K SPECTRUM**, Exchange for ZX81 + Fidelity keyboard + 16K + software + cash. Tel: Crawley 0293 541 988



# NEW RELEASES

## RESCUED!

**Lunar Rescue** is a version of **Lunar Lander** with a number of additional features. Not only must you guide your ship through an asteroid storm and land on one of three pads, you must also rescue a stranded android and re-dock with your mothership while fighting off waves of aliens.

Points are awarded according to various elements, including numbers of humanoids rescued, aliens shot down and size of landing pad.

The game is for the 16K ZX81 and is one of a number of new games recently issued by Mikro-Gen.

**Program** Lunar Rescue  
**Price** £4.95  
**Micro** ZX81 (16K)  
**Supplier** Mikro-Gen  
24 Agar Crescent  
Bracknell  
Berkshire

## A THREESOME

**Triplet** is a new games pack for the Dragon 32 from Wizard Software.

Three games are included, **Breaker** which is a version of **Mastermind**, **Copycat** which is like the game **Simon**, and **Tile** in which you must arrange a

series of letters alphabetically.

**Program** Triplet  
**Price** £5.50  
**Micro** Dragon 32  
**Supplier** Wizard Software  
PO Box 23  
Dunfermline  
Fife KY11 5RW

## LOOP THE LOOP



**Programmer**, William Wray  
**Galaxians** is a popular arcade game that has not had the amount of coverage such arcade favourites usually receive on the Spectrum. One of the first micro **Galaxians** comes from Artic and is claimed to be a close copy of the original, even down to the birds looping the loop at the end of each screen.

The game also has a two player option — a feature often strangely lacking in games which would otherwise invite cut-throat competition.

The programmer, William Wray, has graduated from the ZX81 for which he produced two games, **Galaxy Warrior** and **ZX Galaxians**. He is currently experimenting with 3D animation and speech synthesis techniques for use in future games.

**Program** Galaxians  
**Price** £4.95  
**Micro** Spectrum 16/48K  
**Supplier** Artic Computing  
396 James Rockitt Ave  
Hull, N. Humberside  
HU8 0JA

## SOUNDED OUT

Not a cassette this time but a book, **Lynx Computing** is the first I've seen catering for this machine.

The book is aimed at both computer novices and the more experienced user, and comes from an author well known in the computer books field, Ian Sinclair.

Particularly welcome, I suspect, will be extensive sections on using the Lynx's sound to the full.

**Book** Lynx Computing  
**Price** £6.95  
**Micro** Lynx  
**Publisher** Granada  
PO Box 9  
Frogmore  
St Albans  
Hertfordshire AL2 2NF

## START RIGHT!

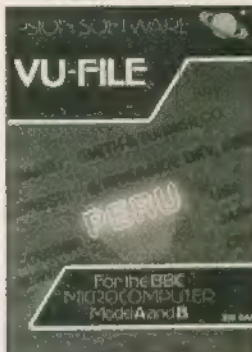
A package which aims to gently teach you the mysteries of programming is one of the first offerings from Collins Educational, a branch of the publishers who have now entered the software market.

**Called Spectrum Starter Pack 1**, the cassette comes complete with a booklet to illustrate in more detail how each program works.

Despite all those "Father educating son" advertisements, the educational market is still lagging behind the games market for Spectrum. It will be interesting to see the results of this venture.

**Program** Spectrum Starter Pack 1  
**Price** £9.95  
**Micro** Spectrum 16/48K  
**Supplier** Retail outlets and from  
Collins Educational  
PO Box  
Glasgow G4 0NB

## FILED AWAY!



Psion is a software company with an enviable reputation amongst Spectrum owners for supplying excellent software.

**Vu-File** is the first release from Psion for a non ZX micro — in this case the BBC. **Vu-File** is a package that enables you to use your BBC as a filing system with near instantaneous retrieval of information.

This program is apparently closely related to the Spectrum **Vu-File**, since it offers similar facilities and the same demonstration program **Gazetteer**.

**Program** Vu-File  
**Price** £14.95  
**Micro** BBC A or B  
**Supplier** Psion Software  
2 Huntsworth Mews  
Gloucester Place  
London NW1 6DD

## IMPOSSIBLE?

Music on ZX81 — Impossible? Not according to the blurb for a new program which claims to provide just that.

**ZX Music** requires 16K and will enable you to produce music through your ZX81 simply using software.

**Program** ZX Music  
**Price** £5.50  
**Micro** ZX81 (16K)  
**Supplier** Stephen Newton  
Software  
5 Freecroft Road  
Holloway  
London N7 9JN

New Releases is designed to let people know what software is coming on to the market. If you have a new game or utility which you are about to release send a copy and accompanying details to: New Releases, Popular Computing Weekly, 13 Whitcomb Street, London WC2 7HF.





## Ziggurat



## Turning turtle

Notwithstanding that Logo is procedural, interactive, and has a list-processing ability — there is one other feature which swamps all others in terms of the applicability of the language.

This is the use of Turtle Geometry in Logo.

A Turtle is a computer-controlled "cybernetic animal" that lives on the vdu display screen and responds to Logo commands that make it move (Forward or Back) and rotate (Left or Right).

When the Turtle moves, it leaves a trace of its path, and so can be used to make drawings on the display screen. For example, to draw a square with the Turtle using a Logo procedure repeat four times "go Forward 200 units, turn Right 90 degrees";

```
TO SQUARE
  REPEAT 4 [FORWARD 200 RIGHT 90]
END
```

And then, by typing in Square, it will.

Though Turtle graphics has been designed for use with Logo, it has appeared in other languages, notably Smalltalk, and UCSD Pascal. And there are now many systems calling themselves Logo which are no more than systems to run Turtle graphics. In their *Information Leaflet No 40*, the teams at the NorthWest Regional Centre for the Microelectronics in Education Programme (799 Wilmslow Road, Manchester) distinguish between full implementations of the language Logo, Logo sub-sets (usually Turtle graphics), Logo written in languages such as Pascal or Basic, and, finally, a miscellany of implementations that range in their ability to give the flavour of Turtle graphics.

Many start their study of Logo by using the

Turtle — and a large proportion never get beyond that stage. This is reflected in the claim recently in one magazine that a Turtle graphics language is "a version of Logo".

In a Logo system one types *Clearscreen*, and it does, leaving a little triangular object in the middle of the screen — the Turtle — pointing upwards. You draw by telling the Turtle to move and leave a trace of its movements, and when you tell the Turtle to turn a certain number of degrees, the Turtle turns to point in that direction. In many systems the Turtle is never seen (eg, USCD Pascal), but most systems have a command named something like *Whereami* (the actual name in UCSD Pascal).

One reason why Turtle graphics are so popular with those in primary (and secondary?) education is that the movements of the Turtle on the screen can be matched by the movements of a robot on the floor (eg, the BBC Buggy).

With Logo there is no need to learn any of the structure of the language at the outset, though to progress will require study. Commands such as *Forward* can be simplified to *Fd*, and so the *Square* procedure can be written:

```
TO SQ
  REPEAT 4 [FD 100 RT 90]
END
```

and there are no 'right' or 'wrong' procedures. If there is a mistake in a procedure, in that it does not do what the child intended, then part of the learning experience comes from fixing the bug.

Whereas many computer scientists insist that there should be no bugs in programs, Papert (in *Mindstorms*) says: "The question to ask about the program is not whether it is right or wrong, but if it is fixable."

Consider the child who defines a procedure:

```
TO TRI
  FD 100 RT 90 FD 50 RT 100 RT 45 FD 100
END
```

to draw an isosceles triangle (45°, 45°, 90°).



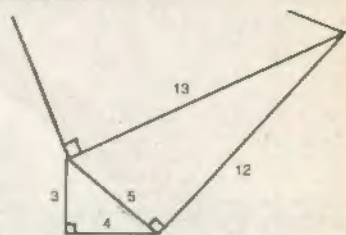
When the child types in Tri, the result is as shown: no triangle. The child then has to find out where the error is, and correct it. In searching out the error the child learns about geometry through use, and about the process of thinking. The child also learns from making mistakes, because the results of the mistakes are made concrete.

Boris Allan

## Puzzle

### At an angle

Puzzle No 55



For a right-angled triangle, the sum of the squares of the two smaller sides equals the square of the longest side.

The two smallest right-angle triangles with all three sides an exact number of units length are the 3, 4, 5 and 5, 12, 13 triangles.

The longest side of the first and the shortest side of the second are the same length — so they can be joined together.

This procedure can be continued — there is a right-angle triangle with integer sides with a smallest side of 13, which could be joined to the smallest triangle. In this way a chain of triangles can be built up.

The first two are given above — what are the lengths of the sides of the next three in the series?

#### Solution to Puzzle No 50

Two solutions, one in Basic, one in Forth. In the Basic program *P* is the number of porpoises, *S* is the number of dolphins and *S* is the number of sprats received by each porpoise. If this is a whole number then we have a possible solution.

```
10 FOR P = 1 TO 31
20 LET D = 31 - P
30 LET S = (576 - 4 * D) / (D + P)
40 IF S - INTS = 0 THEN PRINT "Number of porpoises = " P
50 NEXT P
```

And the Forth solution:

```
F = ROT = ROT ROT = AND;
FISH 31 0 0 14 * 576 +
UNFLOAT F OVER OVER INT
UNFLOAT F = IF
1. "Porpoises"
THEN LOOP
```

#### Winner of Puzzle No 50

The winner is: David Bayliss, Elgin Road, Cheshunt, Herts, who receives £10.

## Top 10

- Dragon**
- (1) Donkey King (Microcode)
  - (2) Dragon Trek (Salamander)
  - (3) Champions (Paissoft)
  - (4) Katerpillar Attack (Microcode)
  - (5) Pinnacles (Automata)
  - (6) Phantom Slayer (Microcode)
  - (7) Cosmic Zap (Microcode)
  - (8) Planet Invasion (Microcode)
  - (9) Missile Defender (Tiger)
  - (10) Chess (Morrison)
- (Figures compiled by Dragon Dungeon, Ashbourne 0335 448262)

## Top 10

- Spectrum**
- (1) Test Match (Computer Rentals)
  - (2) Do Not Pass Go (Workforce)
  - (3) Galaxians (Artic)
  - (4) Knights Quest (Phipps Associates)
  - (5) Black Crystal (Carnell)
  - (6) ETX (Abbex)
  - (7) Spawn of Evil (DK Tronics)
  - (8) Assembler/Editor (Picturesque)
  - (9) Master File (Cambell Systems)
  - (10) Forth (Abersoft)
- \*Requires 48K (Figures compiled by Buffer Micro Shop, London 01-759 2987)

## Top 10

- Atari**
- (1) Helical Ace (Microprose Software)
  - (2) Minor 2048er (Big Five)
  - (3) Floyd of the Jungle (Microprose Software)
  - (4) Zaxxon (Data Soft)
  - (5) Astro Chase (First Star)
  - (6) Qux (Atari)
  - (7) Adventure Land (Adventure International)
  - (8) Rear Guard (Adventure International)
  - (9) Voodoo Castle (Adventure International)
  - (10) Sea Dragon (Adventure International)
- \*Cartridge, £24K cassette, £32K. (Figures compiled by Calisto Computers, Birmingham 021-632 6458)

## Top 10

- Vic20**
- (1) Programmers Aid (Commodore)
  - (2) End Runner (Lamasoft)
  - (3) Abductor (Lamasoft)
  - (4) Introduction to Basic Part 1 (Commodore)
  - (5) Introduction to Basic Part 2 (Commodore)
  - (6) Vic Forth (DataTronic)
  - (7) Treax (Lamasoft)
  - (8) Space Phreaks (Rabbit)
  - (9) Number Chaser (A.S.K.I.)
  - (10) Vic Rel (DataTronic)
- \*Cartridge, £18K. (Figures compiled by Vic Centre, London 01-892 9904)

- BBC**
- (1) Rocket Raid (Acornsoft)
  - (2) Arcadians (Acornsoft)
  - (3) Planetoid (Acornsoft)
  - (4) Word Wise (Computer Concepts)
  - (5) Chess (Acornsoft)
  - (6) View (Program Power)
  - (7) Frogger (A = F)
  - (8) Motors (Acornsoft)
  - (9) Creative Graphics (Acornsoft)
  - (10) Graphics and Charts (Acornsoft)
- \*AS Model B. From (Figures compiled by Micro Management, Ipswich 0473 59181)

- ZX81**
- (1) Froggy (DJL)
  - (2) 3D Monster Maze (J.K. Grey)
  - (3) ZXAS Assembler (Bug Byte)
  - (4) Do Not Pass Go (Workforce)
  - (5) Crazy Kong (PSS)
  - (6) Black Crystal (Carnell)
  - (7) Ravenous Reg (Tony Barber)
  - (8) M Coder (PSS)
  - (9) Personal Banking System (Hilton)
  - (10) The Bible (Automata)
- \*All 128K (Figures compiled by Buffer Micro Shop, London 01-759 2987)

- Books**
- (1) Spectrum Machine Language for the Absolute Beginner, Tang (Melbourne House)
  - (2) Enter the Dragon, Carter (Melbourne House)
  - (3) Mastering the Vic20, Jones (Sigma)
  - (4) Assembly Language Programming for the BBC Micro, Bimbaum (Melbourne House)
  - (5) Starting Forth, Brodie (Prentice-Hall)
  - (6) The BBC Micro — An Expert Guide, James (Granada)
  - (7) Commodore 64 Programmers Reference Guide, Commodore (Commodore)
  - (8) The One 1, Sinclair (Granada)
  - (9) The Spectrum Handbook Manual, Dickens (Melbourne House)
  - (10) Programming the 6502, Zalta (Syber)
- (Figures compiled by Watford Technical Books, Watford 0623 23324)



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